



History on trial in
cinema war epic.

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A tip of the hat
to the Panama
Canal.

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A frame-by-frame
of frame buying.

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Customs ropes in drug 'mule'

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A sage for the ages

The Nanjing Municipal government held a ceremony yesterday to mark the 2,557th anniversary of the birth of Confucius. Students and other members of the public took part in poetry recitals.

Xinhua Photo

Well water leaves Haidian residents unwell

By Qiu Jiaoning

More than 500 residents of a community in Xisanqi, Haidian District have been made unwell by water-borne diseases. The 150 affected households have now stopped using tap water supplied by a well dug by members of the community, suspected as having caused the health problems.

Many in the community began suffering from diarrhea, fever, and nausea in August. An investigation by Haidian Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that their well had been polluted by underground waste water.

Five tankers have been on 24-hour duty supplying the community with clean water. Local authorities are sterilizing water from the well. The Center of Health Inspection and Supervision, an arm of Haidian Health Bureau, told residents that if its water does not meet national quality standards after sterilization, the well will be taken out of service.

"All wells dug by towns and communities should be checked by professionals, who are legally obliged to ensure that water supplied to homes is safe for drinking," said Zheng Yang, from Haidian Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Zheng said that there are 309 community-dug wells in Haidian district, and 181 of them have not been approved to supply drinking water. The government will invest special funds for the refurbishment of these 181 wells. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Self-dug wells in Beijing supply the everyday water needs of many of the city's residents. Figures from the Beijing Water Authority show that 40,000 such wells in Beijing extract 2.5 billion cubic meters from underground aquifers every year, 75 percent of the city's total water supply volume.

Beijing Center of Health Inspection and Supervision says that most incidents of polluted drinking water involve community-dug wells, usually those without official approval. Dai Yuhua, director of the water resource management department of the Beijing Water Authority, said that the city water supply network will be extended and gradually replace wells as drinking water sources after 2008.

Happy hour @ Pavillion

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Liquid ban continues on US bound flights

By He Jianwei

Passengers traveling from China to the United States are still banned from carrying liquids and gelatinous materials even though the US General Administration of Civil Aviation has relaxed their restrictions.

The United States relaxed the ban on carrying liquids and gelatinous materials onto aircraft on Tuesday. But China will

continue to implement the regulations announced in August, said a spokeswoman from the media center at Beijing Capital International Airport.

The passengers who fly directly or indirectly to the United States from China both by the American airlines and other countries' airlines are forbidden to bring on board liquid and gelatinous materials includ-

ing drinks, shampoo, bath foam, sun cream, facial cream, toothpaste, and hair styling jelly.

"We will continue to implement these regulations until we receive notice to change it," said the spokeswoman.

"We adjusted our regulations according to the United States' new regulations in August. We will make some adjustments according to their new regula-

tions," she added.

The spokeswoman also reminded readers of *Beijing Today* that Beijing Capital International Airport would increase security measures over the October national holiday and that passengers should make sure their identity cards or passports are valid and to arrive at the airport two hours before their flight.

Architectural Biennial Beijing 2006

By He Jianwei

The second Architectural Biennial Beijing (ABB 2006) kicked off on Tuesday morning at the main hall of the National Museum of China. It includes special themed exhibitions and forums organized jointly by the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Culture.

The main theme of ABB 2006 is 'City and Architecture: Resources Efficiency and Environment Friendliness', which is an attempt to offer both an impression of the vast scope of the architectural discipline and provide a timely review of its role in the pertinent social and ecological concerns defining our time, said Ronald Szyrupa and Scott Lloyd, the curatorial advisors of ABB 2006.

The ABB 2006 will focus on the connections between urban planning and architectural design. It will run until October 6 at the National Museum of China.

Participants will study and discuss the policies and solutions on the economy and management of

resources, environmental friendliness in the building of cities, urban and rural construction and city and nature. They will also exchange ideas on rural construction, and forecast the development of cities in the 21st century internationally and nationally.

ABB 2006 will hold an 'Emerging Talents, Emerging Technologies' exhibition at the Beijing World Art Museum in The China Millennium Museum from now until next Friday (October 6). It will highlight some of the most progressive architectural works in the world today, with a particular emphasis on new design and fabrication technologies. The exhibition offers showcases of 48 of the most talented young architects from around the world.

Architects and artists from over 13 countries and regions, including the United States, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Russia, Austria, Canada, Australia, and Taipei, will attend the ABB 2006.

Global art exhibition

By Jackie Zhang

The Ninth Beijing International Art Exposition will start from next Monday and run until Friday. Paintings, calligraphy, arts and crafts, folk art work and photographs will all be exhibited at the China World Trade Center.

The works that will be displayed are from more than 300 galleries in more than 10 countries and regions across the world, including China, the United States, France, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and

Russia. One third of the total participants, more than 130, will be coming from abroad to display their work at the exhibition. More than 10,000 items will be on display.

Works of famous Chinese modern painters like Wu Guanzhong, Zhu Dequn, as well as foreign artists including the president of the Rapin Academy of Fine Arts in Russia, are likely to be the highlight of the show.

Thousands of companies, collectors and buyers are expected to visit the exhibition.

Cultural Revolution collections displayed at Panjiayuan

By Gan Tian

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Long March and the 30th anniversary of the death of Chairman Mao, Panjiayuan Market will hold an exhibition of individual collectors' 'red collections' over the Golden Week national holiday.

It is the first time that Panjiayuan market has held an exhibi-

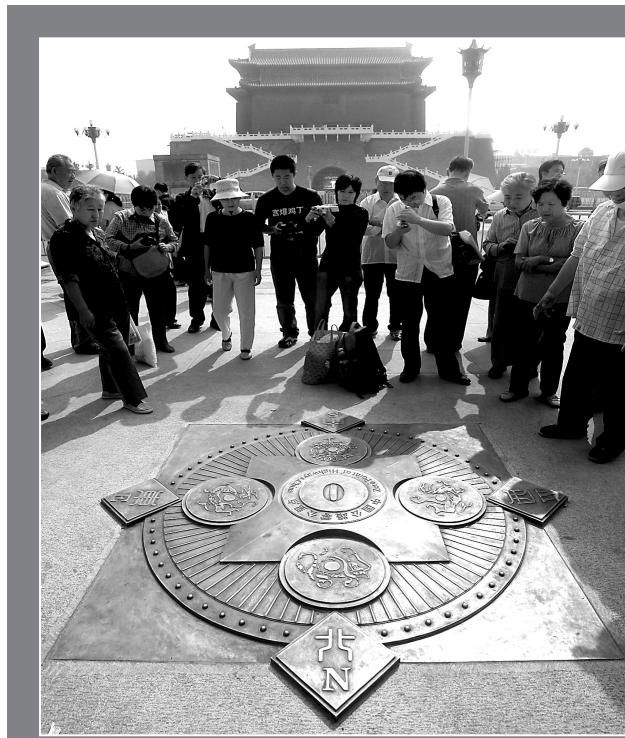
tion for individual collectors. Four famous collectors will get the chance to show off their 'red period' wares: He Changhai will display his collection of typical badges representing different groups during the cultural revolution, Yan Xinlong will exhibit a collection of knitted Chairman Mao portraits, Dong Zhongchao will display his collection of paint-

ings of the building of socialism and Wang Chunhu will bring along his collection of different versions of *Quotations from Chairman Mao*, including more than 30 English versions.

Ji Yucheng, the president of China's Badge Collection Committee, said at the press conference on Wednesday, "These collections show a certain period

of time in China's history. Every piece, every badge and every book has a story behind it. Looking into these stories is fascinating. The collections are also very valuable and are likely to attract scholars both from home and abroad."

The 'red collection' exhibition will be held in Panjiayuan Market's Exhibition Hall between September 30 and October 8.



CFP Photo

Bronze addition to Tian'anmen Square

By Gan Tian

A bronze plaque was embedded in Tian'anmen Square this week to symbolize the starting point of all of China's major roads.

The '0 Kilometer' sign, which is located on the axis line in front of Zhengyangmen Gate, was unveiled on Monday. The symbol is square shaped, with a Chinese character representing each of the four directions. Zhuque (Red Bird), Qinglong (Green Dragon), Baihu (White Tiger), Xuanwu (Black Turtle), the four divine animals who are guardians of the four directions in Chinese mythology, are carved alongside each charac-

ter. In the middle of the sign is a typical Chinese wooden wheel, which represents *sitongbada*, or a safe and smooth journey.

The Communications Ministry started to recruit designing plans from the public in March 2004. Twelve designs were selected in the first round, but 49 other designs from Beijing Communications Committee were also entered. This sign was selected for its traditional Chinese ideas and spirit.

China's national roads are divided into three categories, with '1' representing roads that begin in Beijing, '2' pointing north and south and '3' east and west.

Beijing to impose traffic controls over National Day vacation

By Qiu Jiaoning

Beijing's traffic chiefs will tighten road controls from tomorrow (September 30) to try to stop traffic jams clogging up the city over the week-long National Day vacation.

The traffic controls announced by the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau on Tuesday cover areas including Tian'anmen Square, Jing-shan area, the Summer Palace, Fragrant Hills area and Badaling expressway where cars will have to follow certain routes at certain times of day. Motorists will have to apply for special licenses in advance if they want to drive through the Summer Palace and Fragrant Hills areas.

Qianmen subway station will also be shut during the vacation period and Tian'anmen East and Tian'anmen West stations may be closed at any time, depending on traffic levels.

The bureau said that Beijing's traffic system would have to accommodate 130 million people, a 12 percent rise from the same period last year.

Motorists warned of lengthy delays

By Jackie Zhang

Anyone planning to escape Beijing by car next week is being warned that there could be lengthy delays. At least 18 roads in and around Beijing are currently being renovated and there are no plans to stop over the National Day holiday.

The renovation projects currently include the No. 108 National Highway, Huosi Road in Shunyi District, Jingliang Road in Fangshan District, a city-planning project in Fanqi Road, Huairou District, renovation projects to the side roads from Baihe Bridge to the south entrance of Xindong Road on the Jingshen Highway and the rebuilding of Xiongnan Road in Pinggu District.

The Maintenance Center has set up notice boards on key roads, providing renovation information to drivers over the holiday, as well as weather reports and important news. Drivers can also call 80485588 in an emergency.

Roads that lead to tourist sites

Dulong Road

The road leads to the cuniculus sites in Jiaozhuanghu in Shunyi District. Only one side of the road is currently open.

No 108 National Highway

This road leads to Yinhu Cave in Fangshan District. The road is being repaired but remains open. Long queues are expected.

Fanqi Road

Fanqi Road in Huairou District leads to the Shentangyu tourist site. Only one side of the road is currently open. Traffic jams are likely.

Campus shootout as PC games hit town

By Gan Tian

The TCL-Intel 2006 World University Game League Competition began Monday afternoon at Beijing University.

The competition has attracted more than 10 million university students from over 20 countries. The China events are being held between September 25 and December 31 in 11 locations, covering more than 400 universities. The

survivors of the knockout competitions will be fighting to emerge as the sole winner by the end of December, and then go on to represent China at the world finals.

Sponsors TCL are providing Pirate computers for the tournament, considered to be the best equipment for playing the first-person shooter *Counter-Strike*, a perennial favorite in China's net-bars.

During the opening ceremony on Monday, the Beijing University team played a friendly match with world champions wNv. Justyn Wilson, from the US, told *Beijing Today*, "It is really nice to be in China, here at Beijing University, to have great fun with people at my age. They had a lot of experience and we enjoyed the competition. I hope we will meet each other in the world final!"

Ma Shuli, from the organizing committee, said, "PC games are really hot among the youth. We organized this competition in order to communicate with young people around the world. They may want to know each other, they may see they share the same hobbies, and they can meet each other through this game. PC games bring people together. It's fantastic."

Middle class is not about the money

By Annie Wei

A new survey of China's emerging middle classes is being undertaken by the China National Research Association (CNRA). The survey is being conducted in collaboration with financial services web portal hexun.com

There has to date been no clear agreement as to who constitute China's middle class, according to research by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, though most people thought income was the main factor determining class status.

Ma Xiaoping, of hexun.com, disagrees. Average income varies too much between different cities in China, so their survey tries to identify other common factors, such as social responsibilities, family responsibilities and lifestyle attitudes.

The survey will be conducted among the three million registered users of the website. Off-line interviews will be conducted with a sample from the Internet respondents.

Meng Yiming, of the CNRA, said the results of the survey will be useful in formulating a better definition of China's middle-class.

The survey will take six months, and cover topics such as daily life, media or information consumption, digital lifestyle, automobile use, travel, housing, fashion and financial planning.

Family fin fun



'Shark Harbor' is Beijing Aquarium's seventh largest pavilion, especially built for the 'Sturgeon King'. It was completed and officially opened to the public yesterday.

CFP Photo

Chinese from around world will gather for sports meet

By Huang Daohen

The World Union of Chinese has announced plans to hold its World Chinese Sports Meeting in China in October 2009, the first time the event has been held in the Chinese mainland.

The sports meeting, held every three years, aims to promote global unity and friendship of all people of Chinese

descent. Competitors should be Chinese citizens or foreign nationals of Chinese descent, and they should be amateurs in their chosen event.

Events at the games include mahjong, badminton, martial arts, basketball, table tennis, chess, lion dancing, bowling and water sports. Qualifiers will be held in major cities worldwide,

in Singapore, Canada, the United States and China between 2007 and 2009.

Chen Zhiwen, vice president of the organizing committee, said the games is not only a sporting event, they also provide the host city with a chance to promote itself as a venue for economic, cultural and tourism activities.

A license to make money

By Huang Daohen

A new association has been established to promote direct procurement from Chinese enterprises by United Nations (UN) agencies, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) has announced.

The association, set up by the UN and the MOC in Beijing, is the first of its kind in China. It will act as a channel where the UN can announce what kind of items it is seeking to purchase, and make sample products avail-

able to prospective suppliers. It is expected to make it easier for Chinese enterprises to overcome language barriers and provide financial and technical support allowing them to fulfill contracts to an international standard.

"The association is a 'license to make money' and will provide great business opportunities for enterprises, as it will make it much easier for them to become UN procurement partners," said Lei Yu, from the new association.

"Currently, around 200 Chinese companies have registered with the UN's procurement organizations. We hope to find more Chinese suppliers from other regions beyond the prosperous eastern coast," said Jan Mattsson, director of the management bureau under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who is also in charge of purchasing UN systems.

According to Mattsson, the UN spent more than US\$8 billion in global procurement last

year, of which only around US\$84 million was spent in China, just one percent of the total. However, most of the goods the UN procured were made in China, but many orders were filled through intermediaries in Europe and America. "Certainly, we can not deny the role of intermediaries, but we hope to make direct contacts with Chinese enterprises and procure straight from them, which will improve efficiency and reduce costs," said the UN's Mattsson.

Ten thousand Party members expelled in 2005

By He Jianwei

In 2005, 11,071 members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) were expelled from the Party, and 7,279 of them referred to judicial authorities for criminal investigation, said Gan Yisheng, secretary general of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, at the press conference held by the State Council Information Office Tuesday.

About 0.16 percent of the Party membership, or 115,000 people, received disciplinary punishment. Not all the punished members were corrupt officials; some were punished for serious breaches of duty, said Gan.

The announcement followed the sacking of Shanghai Party chief, Chen Liangyu.

Artist lionized for latest extreme performance

By Jackie Zhang

Ye Fu, a performance artist from Linyi in Shandong province, will be living in a cage with a young lion for 10 days, eating only raw meat and drinking unboiled water, not speaking and avoiding all human contact. His performance is taking place at the Qingdao State Wildlife Park.

"People are living in emotionless cities. People are becoming indifferent to each other. I want to attract people's attention by my extreme behavior," said Ye Fu, before beginning his cage ordeal.

Ye Fu will be under constant video surveillance throughout his 10 days in the cage, which has been placed in an enclosure with a number of other lions. He is accompanied by an assistant.

Brief news

New flower market

A new market for plants and flowers has been built at the city's Xionghuandao. It will be known as the Ya'ao International Flower Market.

New environment inspection centers

The national environmental protection bureau is building five inspection centers in east, south, northwest, southwest, and northeast China.

China grants US\$10.3 bln quota to QDII

China's foreign exchange authority has granted overseas investment quotas totaling US\$10.3 billion to eight qualified domestic institutional investors (QDII).

Nearly five million reported crimes in 2005

The Ministry of Public Security announced on Wednesday that Chinese police dealt with more than 4.65 million reported crimes last year.

Wetlands need better protection

A senior official in the State Forestry Administration said on Monday that only about 45 percent of China's natural wetlands are protected as well as they should be.

(By Gan Tian)



Zhang has to work very hard to take care of her many dogs and cats.

Photos by Chu Meng

Woman saves 4,000 abandoned pets

By Chu Meng

Zhang Luping has given up a lucrative business career to provide a home for over 4,000 stray and abandoned pets over the past 10 years.

"I have never been married, but I have hundreds of children," said Zhang Luping, founder of the Beijing Human and Animal Environment Education Center (the Animal Center). "God sent me to this planet and gave me the mission of taking care of helpless and homeless dogs and cats. I will never let Him down."

Once wealthy

The center, one of a few non-governmental animal welfare organizations in China, was established in April 2001. Its animal shelter, registered with the local government, is the only one in China that combines animal rescue and adoption, as well as animal welfare education.

"Anyone who knows me says I'm crazy. They can't understand why I gave up everything for a bunch of stray animals." She said.

Zhang was born in a well-to-do family. She retired from active military service in 1987, when the nation was full of opportunities for getting rich due to its reform

and opening-up policy. Once a self-described 'wealthy business-woman', Zhang said she had earned millions of dollars in the real estate business in the late 1980s.

In the last 10 years, Zhang gradually gave up opportunities, as she was determined to do more to help abandoned and mistreated animals. In 2001, she mortgaged her last property and set up the Animal Center with the help of the International Foundation for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

Odyssey

"My friends know that I love animals. So they send stray dogs and cats to my office whenever they found," Zhang recalled. Gradually, her home and office became filled with dogs and cats.

The number of abandoned animals hit a record high during 1995-97, after the Beijing Municipal Government enacted a restrictive regulation on dog ownership in 1994 for hygiene reasons. The regulation required every pet owner to pay an initial registration fee of 5,000 yuan. The cost prevented low-income families from owning dogs.

At that time, in order to keep her dogs and cats safe, Zhang moved frequently from one



Zhang Luping and her children

remote suburban area to another. She totally abandoned her real estate business and devoted her attention to the animals.

On April 28, 2001, the Animal Center was moved to its current location in Xiaotangshan, Changping District, with 10 dog shelters, one cat shelter and three poultry shelters, as well as educational facilities and offices.

Attracting attention

A visit by Jane Goodall, a renowned animal expert, marked a turning point for the Animal Center, which then received government approval. Goodall said, "This is my happiest visit to China because this is one of the few places in the world where

adopted animals are not confined in cages. Here, I have felt people's respect for life. For everyone who comes here, it is an experience of purification."

During the SARS epidemic in 2003, Zhang's 2,000-square-meter shelter was jammed with dogs and cats, which many people considered potential carriers of the virus. Zhang picked up over 150 abandoned dogs and cats on streets and saved many that were about to be killed.

In the Animal Center, every dog and cat has a name, and the employees can tell their history. Each dog receives one to two hours of human contact every day. Every kennel has its own exercise area so that small groups of dogs can exercise at the same time.

The center employs 20 people, and has around 200 volunteers. Most are expats or students studying in China. It has attracted over 1,000 volunteers in the past few years.

Animal awareness

Zhang said she has been stunned by the fact that many people, including children, treated animals cruelly. To raise people's awareness of protecting

animals and promoting animal welfare, Zhang set up a special humane education classroom to provide lessons.

One story posted on the exhibition board at the center is very eye-catching. Under the title 'Those who mistreat animals may be a potential danger to society', the story cites a case study by the US FBI that finds that almost all violent criminals mistreated animals when they were young.

More and more people are coming, either to adopt a dog or to teach their children about animal protection. Zhang said she has noticed a slight difference in the approach to adoption between foreigners and her countrymen. "Usually, foreigners will sit with a group of dogs and cats and pick the one that likes them most, in spite of any disabilities," she said. "But Chinese people usually pick up the one we like most."

Under Zhang's relentless efforts, the municipal government amended the regulation on raising pets in 2003, which warns that those who mistreat animals will be punished. The first year registration fee for dogs was lowered to 1,000 yuan, one fifth of the original rate.

Dashanzi art space comes in from the cold

By Annie Wei

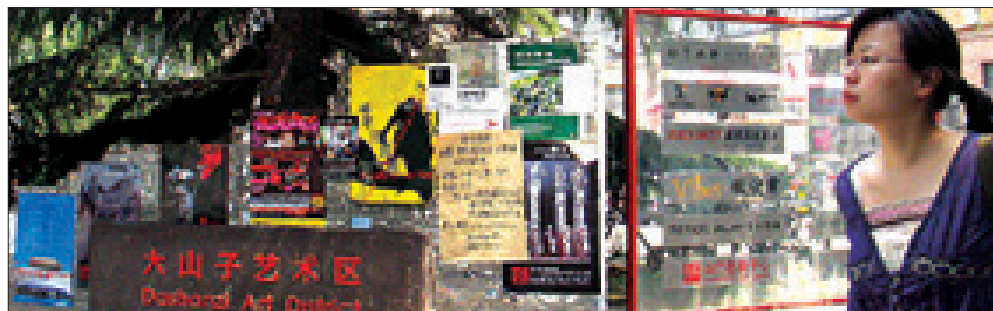
The Beijing 798 Creativity Culture Festival, organized by a local government body, the 798 art zone construction and management office., opened this week, and will run until October 14.

Events at the festival, which ran under the theme 'city, creativity and life', include an art salon, a creative graffiti day and forums.

Meanwhile, the government announced that a 15,000-square-meter mall will be built in the 798 area. Plans include building 11 roads and solving parking problems and erecting better signs.

The festival marks the first time that local government has been so positive about the spontaneously-developed art zone. Two years ago, there was media concern that 798 Dashanzi might be closed down, which had happened to previous art communities in the city.

There are now more than 200 organizations, and some 300 art-



The famous Dashanzi, or 798, art community

CFP Photo

ists, both Chinese and overseas, live or work in the art district.

Support for art zone

A report, by Wang Weijia of the Beijing Tourism Bureau, found that 103 organizations had located in the area by March, 2005. The report estimated some 450,000 visits were made to Dashanzi in 2004, a figure which rose to over half a million in 2005. Visitors came from all over China and abroad. A sample survey esti-

mated that some 20 percent of international visitors will buy art from one of Dashanzi's galleries.

Wang's report urges local government bodies like Beijing planning committee and the local Chaoyang planning committee to protect Dashanzi by listing the area as an 'art zone'. Its Bauhaus-style factories should not be demolished, but polluting businesses should be moved out of the area, says Wang, who also

called for clarification of ownership rights and a ban on big trucks from the art community.

Tie Ying, an artist who has been based at Dashanzi since November 2004 said suggestions from different parties helped to protect 798 instead of destroying it. "I realized the government takes 798 seriously when they started paving roads this year," Tie said.

Rising rents

Another concern is rising

rents in the now-fashionable area. Wang, from Beijing Tourism Bureau, believes the government should implement policies to encourage artists to stay in this place rather than letting it become a playground for the trendy rich.

The official 798 art zone construction and management office said that they have published a document on their outline for development of the area, which identifies four industries they would like to encourage there: culture and art; media; design; and intellectual property services.

Some fear that development plans may make Dashanzi lose touch with its artistic roots, but artist Tie Ying is sanguine, "It's part of the city's commercial diversity," adding that he believes many artists are commercial actors themselves. "The commercialization of 798 is happening a hundred times faster than it did in Soho in New York."



A distance overview of Binhai Area, east of Tianjin.

CFP Photo

Beijing looks to Tianjin as beacon for economy

Tianjin, September 25 (Reuters / Times of Oman) – Imagine a corner of China where the yuan is freely traded, banks can offer a full range of financial services and farmers receive fair compensation when they have to leave the land.

It sounds far-fetched, but that is exactly what could happen before long under plans to turn the Tianjin Binhai New Area into a test-bed for market-orientated reforms that, if successful, could shape China's economic future.

"Trying to do some pilot program to experiment and gain some experience before expanding it to other parts of the country – that's the hallmark of Chinese policy-making and reform," said Wang Qing, an economist at Bank of America in Hong Kong.

In return for major financial support and the green light to road-test reforms, Beijing expects Binhai to catalyze development of north China and become a logistics gateway for northeast Asia.

As part of broad financial and

foreign exchange innovations, it will be home to a US\$2.5 billion equity fund, the first of its kind in China, in which the country's policy-lending banks, insurers and social security fund are likely to participate.

Beijing also wants Binhai, which lies about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of the capital, to show the way in tackling income inequality and environmental degradation at the same time as jumping up the value chain by developing new technologies.

In short, the Binhai experiment is meant to come up with the new model of balanced economic development that China's leaders, worried by growing inequality and pollution, have been seeking with growing urgency.

Wang Kai, head of the policy research department for Binhai New Area, is under no illusion about the enormity of the task.

"There's no roadmap for us to follow," he said. "We'll be creating a new path with every step we take."

Inland provinces top for industrial waste

Beijing, 26 September (RedNova.com) – While China's booming coastal cities are stepping up efforts to protect the environment, its inland provinces are producing more and more industrial waste.

"Even though China's coastal provinces are still the major source of sewage, inland provinces have begun to top the list of industrial waste producers," said Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Ma said since governments of coastal cities have taken measures to reduce pollution, some industries that cause heavy pollution have moved to the less developed inland areas.

According to a database launched recently by Ma's institution, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, southwest China's Sichuan Province and north China's Hebei Province have been since 2004 the top three places that have the most organic waste in their waterways.

Another inland province, Hunan, ranks first in discharging poisonous pollutants such as lead, chrome, cadmium and other toxic by-products of industrial production, according to figures in the database.

"I am really shocked and astonished at how seriously and rapidly the inland waters are being polluted," said Ma.

The database, named China Water Pollution Map (ipe.org.cn), provides information on water quality and the sources of water pollution discharge in 300 cities across China. It also lists more than 2,500 enterprises accused of causing water pollution.

Interview with the editor:

In our mind, China and India are the two economic powers in Asia, which we're very proud of. I also learned today that a number of oil tycoons from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are invest-

ing heavily (billions of dollars) in the Bank of China.

I chose this story to tell our readers that China, as a big economic power, has the potential for further prosperity and is set

to continue to develop its economy after the miracles in the Pearl River Delta and Shanghai's Pudong.

China is becoming a hot topic and we file reports about

China nearly everyday. It's a fact that no one can escape from or ignore.

— Ahmond Sheihad, business editor, Times of Oman

Beijing to change noise law

Beijing, September 25 (chinacsr.com) – The Legal Office of Beijing Municipal Government is currently collecting suggestions from the community for a new noise management law in the city.

Dong Jinhu, chief of the Noise Section of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, says that the new measure has added detailed stipulations about the amount of fines to be levied from those making raucous noise.

For example, construction work done at night must be licensed and a notice must be given to the local residents three days in advance, or else the work will be stopped and companies fined up to 200,000 yuan.

In addition, restaurants, entertainment venues and manufacturing places that may produce noise are not allowed to be set inside residential buildings, and the property management department of the buildings should be responsible for managing the noise inside the area, or they may be fined as well.



Peace and quiet is hard to find in Beijing. Photo by sina.com

Beijing men happy to spend on branded clothes



Men are more willing to spend on designer clothes.

CFP Photo

Beijing, September 26 (fibre2fashion.com) – A survey has found that menswear is becoming an extremely profitable business in Beijing.

Most men buy clothing twice each year, spending an average

CNY800 (US\$100) per item.

And men don't like discount clothing. They are keen on well-known brands and quality fabrics.

The Cuiwei Market was ranked first of all sales locations in the city, with 57 menswear

brands available.

Foreign brands account for about 70 percent of the market, with Italian brands accounting for some 30 percent of sales, French brands about 20 percent, and British brands a further 10 percent.

Interview with the reporter:

China has always been known in the apparel industry in terms of manufacturing, exports, and more recently fashion trends.

Now Chinese consumers are changing their tastes, which is a

good indication that living standards are rising. You are no longer manufacturing garments only for export, but also to wear yourselves.

I'm confident that China

will become an international fashion center. It's only a matter of time.

— George Lundhelm, journalist, fibre2fashion.com

Interview with the editor:

As Ma said in the interview, controlling the country's water pollution is not a technical problem. It's a problem of what administrative mechanisms local governments can afford.

Ma criticized local officials for turning a blind eye to the environment in the pursuit of economic profit.

To solve the problem, public awareness of environmental protection needs to be improved. In this regard, media can play a role.

But I want to emphasize that non-profit organizations and non-government organizations can also play a role in monitoring and exposing these cases throughout the country.

— John Hallington, editor, rednova.com

China Telecom to sell stake to foreigners

Beijing, September 25 (XFN) – China Telecom, the mainland's largest fixed-line operator, is to sell a stake to foreign strategic investors, *The Standard* reported.

NTT DoCoMo, Verizon and France Telecom have emerged as potential suitors, while Deutsche Telekom and Singapore Telecom

have also expressed interest, but all are unlikely to make a move until the third-generation (3G) licensing issue has been resolved, the newspaper said.

"The operator is seeking a partner who can not only provide synergies, but also help China Telecom to develop 3G technol-

ogy," *Sing Tao Daily*, The Standard's sister publication, says.

The company is considering issuing new shares, or its parent China Telecom Group may sell non-tradable shares to a strategic partner.

Talks are in the preliminary stages, the newspaper said.

China is expected to hand out 3G licenses this year, allowing operators to launch high-speed data and multimedia services before the Olympics.

China Telecom is expected to be one of three recipients of 3G licenses, along with China Mobile and China Netcom.



Tourism: to benefit the world

People in Dhakar, capital of Bangladesh, celebrate the 27th 'World Tourism Day', September 27. The slogan for this year is 'Tourism: to benefit the world'. Xinhua/AFP Photo

ICBC's Shanghai IPO approved

Shanghai, September 26 (Reuters) – The China Securities Regulatory Commission said on Tuesday it had approved Industrial and Commercial Bank of China's plan for an initial public offer in Shanghai.

The country's largest bank

plans to raise between US\$18 billion and US\$21 billion through simultaneous listings in Hong Kong and Shanghai. It received Hong Kong regulatory approval last week.

The combined offer, roughly three quarters of which will be

conducted in Hong Kong, is expected to be the world's largest-ever IPO, eclipsing a US\$18.4 billion offer in 1998 by Japan's NTT Mobile Communications.

ICBC has attracted US\$3.5 billion worth of investment from the Kuwait Investment Author-

ity, China's top life insurer and a group of Hong Kong tycoons, including billionaire Li Ka-shing.

If it exercises its over-allotment options, ICBC will sell 40.7 billion shares in Hong Kong and nearly 15 billion shares in Shanghai.

Deutsche Boerse invites Chinese companies

Beijing, September 27 (China Daily) – The Frankfurt-based Deutsche Boerse yesterday said that it had clinched a deal with China Beijing Equity Exchange (CBEX) to get Chinese companies to list on the European bourse.

Although there are no Chinese companies currently listed on the European stock exchange, Deutsche Boerse is actively seeking opportunities.

CBEX President Xiong Yan said they had introduced a batch

of Chinese companies, mainly traditional manufacturing businesses from Shandong, Jiangsu, and Fujian provinces, to its German partner under their strategic co-operative framework.

Deutsche Boerse is currently

talking with several Chinese companies about launching initial public offerings (IPOs) in Frankfurt, according to Alexander Graf Von Preysing, an expert on the bourse's Chinese issuer relations.

Health insurance with survival benefits to withdraw

Beijing, September 27 (China Daily) – The China Insurance Regulatory Commission issued a notice this week, ordering all health insurance products with

survival benefits to withdraw from market from the beginning of next year.

CIRC released the rules on August 14, stipulating that med-

ical and disease insurance products will no longer include survival benefits as of September 1.

Since then, the sale of insurance products with survival ben-

efits has increased dramatically in some cities. It rose 40 percent in Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, according to the local media.

'Seek' and you shall expand in China

By Han Manman

Zhaopin.com, one of the leading HR service providers in China, announced Monday that it has reached an agreement to receive US\$20 million investment from

Seek.com, the largest online recruiting company in Australia and New Zealand.

Seek plans to provide strategic and operational support as part of its first investment out-

side Australia and New Zealand.

According to Andrew Bassat, Joint Chief Executive of Seek, the online job classifieds market in China is expected to grow to more than US\$500 million in

the next five years, from US\$100 million last year.

Chief Executive Liu Hao told Reuters in June he expects Zhaopin to post a profit in 2007 and go public on the US Nasdaq market.

MySpace comes to China

By David Drakeford

Rupert Murdoch announced recently that senior executives of News Corp and his wife Wendy Deng, are in China to launch his social networking site MySpace.

"MySpace is expanding

beyond the US market to Europe and Asia, including China," said Chen Yonghong, public relation director for News Corp's Beijing office. "It is still at a very preliminary stage."

News Corp bought MySpace

last year for US\$580m and the site has more than 100 million users worldwide. Murdoch said that a Chinese MySpace would likely have local partners, owning around 50 percent to ensure that the content was suitable for the

local users. Other US-based companies have experienced what he describes as "heavy weather" operating in China – Google is losing market share to Chinese competitors and eBay remains in investment mode.

Bank of Beijing's US\$500 mln IPO

Hong Kong, September 27 (Reuters) – Bank of Beijing plans to raise US\$500 million from an initial public offering by the second quarter of next year.

The bank, the second of China's 100-plus city commercial banks allowed to operate outside its home city, would like to sell shares in Hong Kong, while the China Securities Regulatory Commission wants it to list on the mainland.

Beijing airport's US\$135 mln shares

Hong Kong, September 25 (Reuters) – Beijing Capital International Airport Co. is selling US\$135 million (HK\$1.05 billion) worth of 200 million primary shares as its stock trades near a 52-week high.

The company is gearing up for a flood of activity related to the city's role as host of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Shangri-La's sales mission

By Huang Daohen

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, the Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, showcased its 22 China properties including two in Hong Kong recently in Shanghai and Beijing.

The event, named '2006 China Sales Mission', introduced the group's new hotel projects in China, which account for more than half the group's properties. Mainland China will see nearly five new Shangri-La hotels or extensions opening in 2007.

Chile opens first bank office

Beijing, September 25 (mercopress.com) – Bank of Chile became the first South American private finance institution to open an office in Beijing recently.

"This is the beginning of a process and bridge-head for cooperation between two countries that don't fear globalization and are committed to creating wealth for our peoples," said Bank of Chile's Vice-president Andronico Luksic.

Shell acquires Tongyi

Beijing, September 23 (AFP) – Shell China has secured a 75 percent majority stake in Tongyi at one billion yuan (US\$126 million), the country's third largest lubricant manufacturer.

Tongyi has been China's leading independent lubricant brand, standing up to the might of Sinopec's Changcheng and CNPC's Kunlun.

Tom to acquire eBay Eachnet

Beijing, September 27 (chinatechnews.com) – Local media reports that Tom Online (TOM) will announce the acquisition of eBay Eachnet and Paypal in China.

Ebay will totally sell its business in China because it has seen diminishing returns due to the fierce Chinese competition.

Skinny models banned

By Patty Huntington
(The Sydney Morning Herald)

The world's first ban on overly thin models at a top-level fashion show in Madrid has caused outrage among modeling agencies and raised the prospect of restrictions at other catwalk pageants.

Madrid's fashion week has turned away underweight models, after protests that young girls and women were trying to copy their rail-thin looks and developing eating disorders.

Organizers say they want to project an image of beauty and health, rather than a waif-like, or 'heroin chic' look.

But Cathy Gould, of New York's Elite modeling agency, said the fashion industry was being used as a scapegoat for illnesses like anorexia and bulimia.

"I think its outrageous, I understand they want to set this tone of healthy beautiful women, but what about discrimination against the model, and what about the freedom of the designer," said Gould, Elite's North America director, adding that the move could harm the careers of naturally "gazelle-like" models.

Madrid's regional government, which sponsors the show and imposed restrictions, said it did not blame designers and models for anorexia. It said the fashion industry had a responsibility to portray

healthy body images.

"Fashion is a mirror and many teenagers imitate what they see on the catwalk," said regional official Concha Guerra.

The mayor of Milan, Italy, Letizia Moratti told an Italian newspaper this week she would seek a similar ban for her city's show unless it could find a solution to "sick" looking models.

The Madrid show is using the body mass index or BMI-based on weight and height – to measure models. It has turned away 30 percent of women who took part in the previous event. Medics will be on hand at the September 18-22 show to check models.

Under the Madrid ruling, models must have a BMI rating of around 18. That would disqualify top Spanish model Esther Canadas, and supermodels like Kate Moss, based on unofficial records of their height and weight.

"The restrictions could be quite a shock to the fashion world at the beginning, but I'm sure it's important as far as health is concerned," said Leonor Perez Pita, director of Madrid's show.

A spokeswoman for the Association of Fashion Designers of Spain said the group supported restrictions and its concern was the quality of collections, not the size of models.



Many people have a bone to pick with over-thin models.

Photo by sina.com

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. Her Body: Bedtime Secrets That Aren't About Sex
2. Gibson Apologizes to Mayans
3. Talking Food With Asia's Bloggers
4. Why Clinton Lost It on Fox
5. Former Thai PM on Post-Coup Prognosis

New York Times (US)

1. Baseball's Oldest Old-Timer Opens a Window
2. Is Hysteria Real? Brain Images Say Yes
3. A Dog's Life, Upgraded
4. Freakonomics: Selling Soap
5. Broken Bench: In Tiny Courts of NY, Abuses of Law and Power

Toronto Star(Canada)

1. Happily retired at 34
2. Pot-smoking prof lights up a room
3. Boy, three, buys car on eBay
4. Excess testosterone kills brain cells: Study
5. 20 held after Haliburton pot bust

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. 'I can see no end to the killing zone'
2. Lucien Freud: I wanted to hit people
3. Cherie torpedoes Brown's message
4. 'You're very special,' says the Queen
5. Beckham tried to control National Portrait Gallery

Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Satellite snaps topless sunbathers
2. We killed Matthew: parents
3. 'Living treasure' dumps bucket on PM's wife
4. Steve knew he'd die young: Terri
5. Toddler buys car on eBay

(By He Jianwei)

Comments:

This is none of the government's business. If the fashion industry is worried about eating disorders let them stop employing the hyper-skinny, but legislation is not the answer.

— hls_steve

I don't think the smaller models should be banned, but a broader interpretation of a 'healthy weight range' should be

incorporated into shows. Even though there is a lot of fuss about skinny girls, our society definitely equates thinness to virtuousness when compared to slightly larger (yet not 'fat') meaning slothful and lazy. This is a byproduct of the fashion and entertainment industries.

— theenigmaticq

I can say with some personal experience in the family that

young girls (in their early teens) look at celebrities and models, and the first thing they look at is their weight, even though most of us who are mature and educated know that these models don't reflect the natural weight of a healthy woman.

— Punjaban Diva

Women are unable to fight against the anti-woman fashion industry. These people have been

trying to sell ultra-skinny women for 40 years. They were laughed off the pages when Twiggy came out, but then these anti-women people went back into the woodwork and started again. Slowly, very slowly, over the last 40 years they have conned women into thinking thinner and thinner was better and better. The women can't help themselves.

— Dan Hamilton

Is BBC1 a balloon, a dancer, or a circle?

By Jason Deans

Do channel identents matter anymore, now that we're all constantly zapping around hundreds of digital channels or just recording stuff to a hard drive? And are the new BBC1 identents better than what has gone before – the dancers, and before that the balloon?

Broadcast marketing bods certainly think channel identents still matter, even if there are far more of them out there. They aim to use on-air branding to encapsulate the identity and character of a channel. But do viewers really care?

BBC1 controller Peter Fincham says his channel's new identents, based on the central theme of a circle, encompass "the 'One' of the BBC1 brand as well as the idea of bringing people together".

Charlie Mawer, the executive creative director at Red Bee

Media, formerly BBC Broadcast and now the independently owned branding specialist behind the new BBC1 identents, adds that the circle is a "symbol of community and unity... in an era of audience fragmentation, multiple channels and personalization".

Is this what they say to you?

As with many things, people usually seem to take against any new channel identents, declaring a nostalgic fondness for what has gone before.

This was particularly the case with when BBC1's dancer identents were introduced in March 2002. Not only did they herald the end of the BBC1 globe, in its various guises, after nearly 40 years – but were dismissed as political correctness gone mad. Bah!

I have a soft spot for the mid 90s BBC2 logo – though this is probably tied up with nostalgia for the old Friday night comedy

zone, and seeing them before Moviedrome films I'd taped. And the original Channel 4 ident – for the theme that went with it as much as anything.

Do you hanker for the days of the Thames TV skyline, or another fondly remembered ident? And will the new BBC1 'circle' concept make it to the

channel branding hall of fame?

For a trip down memory lane with stills and video of more Channel 4 and ITV regional identents, check out TV Ark.

Comments:

A channel ident is a simple and unobjectionable thing and need last no more than five seconds. I suspect that these extended lifestyle statements matter far more to the broadcasters who make them than they do to the viewer.

— renaissance moron

These look promising, much better than the godawful dancers anyway – I don't know anyone who was 'fond' of them as the spokesperson says.

The circle sort of harks back to the old globe device, which is a nice touch, and a few of the screen-shots like the one with the moon look really nice.

— blakec

Well, I've seen the new cycle ident for BBC One and the bit in the second half where it resolves into a circle is quite good, but annoyingly self-important and too busy in the first half. It'll be annoying me as much as the current identents before too long.

If they're using the moon in one of these identents why not take the logical step and use the Earth in one, a nice reminder of the days when the BBC used the world as the ident.

— Alberon

Grateful to be informed that these things are called 'identents' (nice word), but how very wearisome this all is. These complicated interludes between programs just seem like the last word in media job creation schemes and completely irrelevant to the channel.

— italiago

I'm so underwhelmed – will the creative ever learn? The timeless 'globe' fitted perfectly before any program in a way that dancers, rugby players and other assorted characters didn't, especially before news and serious documentaries. It'll be interesting to see how long it is before these new identents become tiresome – and which of them is chosen to precede bad news.

— academictv

Customs ropes in drug 'mule'

By Annie Wei

Capital Airport Customs revealed that they caught a Nigerian drugs trafficker last month and tracked down several other suspects.

The 43-year-old Nigerian man, Duru Paul Chijioke, arrived in Beijing airport at 8:30pm on August 29. Chijioke's nervous body language and his attempt to get through customs by attaching himself to a foreign student group aroused suspicions. His luggage was checked.

Customs found no problems with Chijioke's luggage at first. But Chijioke's spurious responses to questions made them suspicious.

Chijioke said that he was visiting China for the first time and planned to buy cell phones and garments in Guangzhou. But customs found a hotel card from Guangzhou, as well as a bottle of lubricant and very little cash.

Meanwhile, customs also found a Guangzhou taxi receipt, two cellphone SIM cards and three keys duplicated in China in Chijioke's wallet.

During questioning, Chijioke got more and more nervous. He refused to say why he came to China. And he chose to stand throughout, rather than sit.

At 9:50pm, more than an hour after Chijioke arrived in Beijing, he asked to go to the washroom. Customs said that Chijioke seemed extremely uncomfortable with his stomach. Thirty capsules then exited Chijioke's body. Customs staff quickly tested the capsules and confirmed they con-



Drug mule Chijioke, second from left, is led away by Customs officers.



Chijioke displays the heroin he was trying to smuggle into China.

Photos provided by Capital Airport Customs

tained heroin.

According to Beijing airport customs, drugs are often transported internally to fool customs checks. People who carry drugs by taking them in their stomachs are called 'mules'. It takes around 48 hours for a 'mule' to bring the drugs from Africa to Guangzhou. The 'mule' is not supposed to drink or eat anything in this period of time. Meanwhile, the 'mule' has to face the danger of keeping drugs in the stomach too long, which can be fatal. Once a capsule is broken, the 'mule' will die from the overdose.

Suffering from the pressure and exhaustion of carrying the drugs, Chijioke admitted that he took 94 capsules and planned to bring them to someone in Guangzhou. It was a painful experience to take all these capsules, Chijioke told customs. Customs quickly took him to a nearby hospital for a medical check.

At 10:55am next morning, the last capsule finally came out from Chijioke's body. The customs officer said that there were a total of 94 capsules and each weighed 16 grams. Together, they weighed more than 1,500 gram with a purity of 43.8 percent.

A 'mule' normally only carries 500 grams, customs said, "Chijioke's amount was quite shocking."

Yu Jiang, a woman officer from the newsroom of Capital Airport Customs said customs uncovered 14 drug cases this year. The amount of drugs ranged from more than 10 grams to more than 1,000.

Laowai Spring Festival

By Huang Daohen

'Arts from Our Land', a competition regarded as a Spring Festival for foreign Beijing residents, has now started a formal application for 2007. Expatriates who have a basic conversation ability of Chinese and love Chinese art may attend, as long as they send the entry form before November 20.

The competition was initially named 'Foreigners Singing Chinese Songs' but has now expanded to Chinese dance, balladry, cross talk, martial arts, opera and modern drama.

Since its debut, the program has attracted some 2,000 competitors of all ages from more than 40 countries around the world.

For details, call 68429614 or email to xuejing@btv.com.cn

'Prince of Piano' to mesmerize music fans

By Han Manman

Known as the 'The Prince of Piano,' French pianist Richard Clayderman returns to Beijing with a promise to mesmerize Chinese music lovers with a scintillating performance at the Beijing Exhibition Theater on October 6.

Clayderman will perform over the Golden Week national holiday. Piano fans will get the chance to hear him perform romantic piano solos including *Ballade Pour Adeline*, *Jardin Secret* as well as famous theme music from classic movies. Clayderman will also cooperate with the 'Chinese Music Beauty' group to perform traditional Chinese melodies.

The Frenchman, who has established an international career as a best-selling recording artist and concert performer, has performed more than 150 concerts in China since he first came here in 1998.

See Kremlin treasures in the Forbidden City

By Jackie Zhang

An important event in the Year of Russia, the Kremlin Treasure Exhibition was launched yesterday at the Meridian Gate of the Forbidden City.

The Kremlin Treasure Exhibition shows people different aspects of Russian palace life from the 16th to the early 20th century, reflecting the rich luxurious life of the Russian Tsars' palaces.

There are 200 items from the Kremlin Museum on show. The first part of the exhibition mainly shows daily life in a Russian palace in the 16th and 17th century. The second part features arts and crafts and palace armament facilities in the 18th to 20th century feature. The third part is about the Russian Orthodox Church.

The exhibition will be open to the public until January 8.

Lonely Planet has Chinese website

By Han Manman

Tony and Maureen Wheeler, the founders of Lonely Planet, the world's leading independent travel publisher came to Beijing to launch their new book *Once While Traveling: The Lonely Planet Story* and Chinese website Monday. On their three day stay in Beijing, they also participated in a Blue Book Beijing Mission activity with Beijing travel fans.

In the activity, travel fans were required to divide into five groups and to cast a dart into a Beijing map in front of them. No matter where the dart landed, they had to go to that place to complete their mission. Tony Wheeler believes this can give people a new perspective on their city.

The Wheelers enjoying Tuesday afternoon exchanging their 35 years of travel experience with local travel fans at Sanlian bookstore. But the main purpose was to introduce



The Wheelers enjoying a good time with Beijing travel fans.

Photo provided by Sanlian Bookstore

their new book *Once While Traveling*. The book is a unique mix of autobiography, corporate history and travelogue. It traces the Wheelers' personal story as well as the often-bumpy evolution of their business into one of the world's largest independent travel publishing company. The Chinese language version of the Lonely Planet website www.lonelyplanet.com.cn was also officially opened the same day. "We update our guidebook every two years, and now we will put more

into the website, to give more useful information online for traveler to search and collect the travel information," Mr Wheeler said.

"When we first started writing books, we were very young. And our book was only a service for the young back packer. Now our orientation has expanded, we cover other budgets as well," he added.

The Wheelers said they would publish a new book early next year named *Bad Place in the World*. "US president George W Bush talks

about an 'axis of evil'. I thought I should go and visit the countries. So I went to Iran, Iraq and North Korea, and I also came to other countries that people think are bad like Burma, Cuba and Libya. They are not bad as you might think."

For the best places they've traveled and loved, Wheeler said the first choice was Nepal. Second was Burma, where the culture is very affecting. Then Australia, southern France and the whole south Asia region. "France is still the most popular place in the world, but very soon it will be overtaken by China," Mr Wheeler said.

In mid-1972, Wheelers set out on a yearlong trip around the world, with the intention of getting the travel bug out of their systems.

More than 35 years later, they are the owners of one of the world's largest, most successful and best-loved independent travel publishing companies.

Inter Milan makes a home in China

By Jackie Zhang

The popular Italian football club Inter Milan launched its Chinese official website, www.inter.it, on Tuesday through an exclusive cooperation with Sina.com, a leading Chinese Internet portal.

Senior vice president and chief editor of Sina.com, Chen Tong, and Angelo Mario Moratti, president of

the Inter brand attended the opening ceremony. Inter's Argentinian midfielder player Esteban Cambiasso took part in the event by video conference from Milan.

Chinese football fans can now get detailed information about Inter Milan including latest club news and photos, live scores and match reports, in-depth statistics and player profiles.

The club has also authorized Sina.com to use its logo and will run exclusive Inter Milan offers through them. The website's registered fans will have a chance to go to Milan each year, have dinner with the players or to watch the team's training and matches. The club will also organize activities for Chinese football fans in China.

Inter has forged strong links

with China in recent years with initiatives such as the Inter Campus project in Qingdao. Earlier this month, Chinese U21 internationals Wang Dalei and Zhang Wenzhao spent 10 days training with the Inter team and the coach Roberto Mancini as part of a project to help develop China's emerging talent ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Virtual election for Dutch expats

By Chu Meng

Dutch citizens working or studying in Beijing were invited by the Royal Netherlands Embassy to participate a virtual general election evening on Wednesday night at the Bookworm coffee bar in Sanlitun, part of preparations for a real election due to be held in the Netherlands next month.

The Netherlands ambassador to China, Dirk Jan van den Berg hosted the Beijing event. He told his audience, "This is the first time that all Dutch people living overseas can vote, so I'm here tonight to both tell you this good news and to collect your voter registrations."

Mr van den Berg said that the virtual election was designed to provide a snapshot of voter opinions and an opportunity to discuss election issues.

The night combined fun with the politics. Thijs Cox, president of the Dutch in Beijing Club and the assistant host of the party, told the assembled voters, "There



You can laugh, but I think 'Mickey Mouse' has a chance.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

are currently 75 different registered political parties, and thirteen of them are standing in this election. Polls show four of those thirteen out ahead of the pack." He showed the four leading parties' election broadcasts, which

are available for viewing on Internet video site Youtube.com.

"Oneens", shouted by Ron Cune, managing director of a wholly Dutch-invested company who has been in Beijing for five years. The word means 'objection' in Dutch.

Mr Cune's problem? "There are so many parties. We know only a little about them, some we have never heard of. We need to read more about them, but there must be piles of documents, and it would take us months to read them all."

Photos celebrate Sino-Mongolian friendship

By He Jianwei

The 'Exhibition of Mongolian Photography' will kick off today in the art gallery of the Capital Library to celebrate the 57th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Mongolia.

According to Madame Suzsuren, Cultural Secretary of the Embassy of Mongolia, the exhibition will go on show from 9am to 5pm and last from September 29 to October 8.

In all, the exhibition features 47 pieces of work ranging from Mongolian traditional art to sports; from the landscape of Mongolia to the neighborhoods in Ulan Bator.

Greek minister confident Beijing can stage healthy Games

By Chen Shasha

Dimitrios Avramopoulos, Greece's Minister of Health and Social Solidarity came to Beijing this week and shared with Beijing officials details of health measures used in Athens during the Athens Olympic Games.

"The Olympics could be ruined by even a small disease outbreak," said Mr Avramopoulos. The two countries will be working together to hold an international health meeting next year to prepare for the coming Olympic games.

Tuscan culture comes to the capital

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Center of International Cultural Exchange (CICE), Arts Association Continua, Italian Tuscany Region (APET) and Italian Embassy in Beijing co-organized Italian Arte all'Arte Cultural Promotion Event in the National Art Museum of China on Tues-

day evening.

The project has invited representative contemporary artists from the world to the Italian cultural and historical center - Tuscany - to create artworks about the emerging local artistic heritage and the natural environment, with the theme of nature, art and

technology. Famous Chinese artists Cai Guoqiang and Jennifer Ma are among those invited.

The project is also promoting a charity event, which collects money by auction for special Italian wine packages designed by famous artists to help countries with a shortage levels of water

resource, including China.

Claudio Martini, president of the Tuscany Region and officials from the Chinese Ministry of Culture, the Bureau of National Tourism and the State Environmental Protection Administration were present and spoke at the opening ceremony.

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British NGO helps to free hundreds of child prisoners

By Chen Shasha

Xu Ting, who quit his job working in the branch of a local bank in 2001, feels pretty lucky - even if he is earning just 800 yuan a month. From between 2002 and 2006, he has worked as an 'appropriate adult' for a judicial diversion project run by Save the Children (SC), a British NGO that has helped to free hundreds of youngsters banged up in prisons in Kunming, Yunnan province.

The concept of 'appropriate adults' was imported from English law, in which no police interview of a child under 17 years of age should take place without the presence of an adult. This adult can be the teenage offender's parent or guardian, a volunteer or social worker. SC set up the judicial diversion project and hired appropriate adults in China in 2002, select-

ing Kunming as their pilot town. All applicants were trained by SC and had to pass psychology and law exams. "The presence of an appropriate adult helps to prevent police threats or violence," Jiang Min, chief organizer of the project in SC Kunming office said.

There are 10 full-time appropriate adults, like Xu Ting, who work at SC's Kunming office. "We accompany young offenders as soon as they are arrested," said Xu Ting. It's not unusual for the phone to ring in the middle of the night with calls for SC staff to get down to the police station after an arrest.

When they arrive at the police station, the appropriate adults talk to the young offenders to find out if it's the first time they have committed a crime, to collect information about his or her family, school life and experi-

ence. In the following days, they visit the child's family, school and neighborhood to collect more information about the young offender so they can write a report to the police or judge. "We do all of this to make sure the youngster gets a fair trial and to ensure they are released if they are under age," said Jiang Min.

"It can be difficult to carry out judicial diversion," said Xu Ting. "In China, each policeman should catch a certain number of criminals within a certain time. If some youth criminals fall under the judicial diversion program the police may fail to meet their targets." But SC staff continue their efforts to free young offenders. They have built eight social communities in Kunming to educate those who have been through the judicial diversion program. The communities include the children's

guardians, schools and some volunteers. As the communities were only built in Kunming, some of the young criminals lost their chance to be set free. "We can't carry out judicial diversion if the child doesn't have guardians in Kunming," said Jiang Min. According to Xu Ting, more than 80% of youth criminals are migrants to Kunming so cannot be put through the judicial diversion program.

SC is now trying to build social communities and to set up judicial diversion projects in other cities across China. "Whether we succeed all depends on whether local governments support us," said Jiang. Beijing and Anhui will be their next targets. SC is also pushing lawmakers to shake up China's criminal justice system to make it fairer on children, as Britain did decades ago.



Photo provided by CRCF

Art exhibition raises cash for sick kids

By Han Manman

A charity exhibition featuring works by Finnish abstract painter, Susanna Hernesniemi, kicked off in the Dashanzi Art District this week. Launched by the Embassy of Finland and the Chinese Red Cross Foundation (CRCF), the exhibition aims to raise money for sick kids.

Around 35 paintings, donated to CRCF by the artist, form part of five series, all under the heading 'Art-For-Life'. The paintings will be sold and all the money will be used to help Chinese children suffering from congenital heart disease. The exhibition will run until October 8 at Anni Art.

This charity exhibition is part of a welfare program launched by CRCF to help poor children with congenital heart disease get the operations and treatment they so desperately need.

According to CRCF, every year 140,000 babies are born in China with congenital heart disease and only 60,000 of them are able to get the operations they need. Many families cannot afford to pay for medical treatment. Medical experts say that 99 percent of children recover from the disease if treated.

First 3D animated film puts spotlight on environment

By Chen Shasha

"We hope this film will help to focus the public's attention on environmental protection," said Ding Jing, head of the World Wild Fund's (WWF) marketing department at the premiere of *Open Season*, the first 3D animated film from Sony Pictures.

The film is a movie about humor and fantasy. A domesticated grizzly bear, Boog, has his perfect world turned upside-down after he meets Elliot, a scrawny, fast-talking wild buck deer. When open season starts, groups of hunters converge on the forest and Boog and Elliot faced survival challenges.

The film will open to audiences from Today on.

Vienna Boys' Choir brings Mozart to life

By Chen Shasha

The world-renowned Vienna Boys' Choir will perform under the baton of Raoul Gehringer in Beijing, on October 13 in the century theater.

Founded in 1498, the Vienna Boys' Choir gives about 300 concerts and performances each year. On the occasion of 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's born, the choir will perform a music show about his life and music. There will be 10 famous Mozart pieces included in the show.

Community Cup raises more than 20,000 yuan for charity

By Huang Daohen

With the aim of raising money for charity and giving players a memorable day out, the MasterCard World Community Cup 2006 was held over two days, in early September. The total amount raised from the football tournament, according to the organizers, Club Football and the British Chamber of Commerce in China, has now topped more than 220,000 yuan - a record amount.

The organizers hope to raise a total of more than one million yuan this year, with a number of other fund-raising projects planned before January. All the money will be donated to the nominated worthy causes - the China Red Cross Association, UNICEF and Beijing Huiling.

The Beijing Community Cup was established in 2002 as an annual football fundraiser. The funds raised for the charity have grown every year the event has been held, and since 2005 the event has been strengthened considerably by the title-sponsorship of MasterCard.

It's a platform to potentially engage and draw on the support of millions of football and sports fans across the country. By making a small contribution in huge numbers we can achieve an awesome impact," said Keith Bradbury, the general manager of Club Football.

Beijing Today, one of the media teams, took part in the cup and came a fantastic third in the final.

Volunteers put finishing touches to orphanage



OCDF volunteers pose with children for a photo in the newly-built Hebei orphanage.

Photo provided by Tom Mackenzie

By Tom Mackenzie

An ambitious project to build an orphanage for up to 30 special needs and disabled children in nearby Hebei Province was completed at the weekend.

A team of 12 Chinese and expatriate volunteers put the final touches to the orphanage on Saturday, painting cartoon murals and preparing the building for the arrival of dozens of needy kids, many of them abandoned by their parents because of their defects.

The project, which has been funded and organized by Beijing-based charity Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF), got under way just

over six months ago.

Since then more than US\$25,000 in donations has been spent on the orphanage. Windows have been put in, walls painted, beds bought and a vegetable garden prepared. Expatriate families living in Beijing have also donated dozens of toys for the children.

Volunteer Mark Hessler, who returned to the orphanage last weekend for the second time, said, "It was great to be able to come back to finish building the orphanage. We got to meet some of the children who will be living there which was quite an inspiration. It's nice to get

the chance to give something back to those less fortunate. The building now looks amazing and I hope the children will be happy living there."

According to OCDF, every year in China 800,000 to 1,200,000 children are born with birth defects and disabilities. Many of them are abandoned on doorsteps or in streets by parents who are either unable, or too ashamed, to look after them. Orphanages like the one in Hebei will help to give these children as normal a childhood as possible with the care they need.

For more information about the project, or to make a donation, go to www.ocdf.org

Renting in Beijing

By Chen Shasha

If you plan to move out of campus and into rented accommodation you should pay attention to the following things:

Policy

Liu Yingbin, director of the Entry and Exit Administration Division, said that international students should register at their local police station as soon as they move into their rented accommodation.

And he warns that the authorities will launch a major crackdown on unregistered tenants over the coming national holiday. If students stay with relatives or friends, the host should register at the local police station with their guest's passport and fill out a Temporary Lodging Registration Form within 24 hours of his or her arrival.

Tips

1. Where to find housing information

You can find information on renting in any of the city's English language listing magazines and on housing websites, like www.beijing.asiaxpat.com, www.thatshbj.com (English) and www.anju365.com (Chinese).

There are many privately owned housing agencies in Beijing. Before going to an agency, decide on the type of apartment you want to rent. How much space do you need? How much money are you willing to spend? Is public transportation available nearby? Think carefully about the right place for you.

2. Try to avoid going through illegal agencies

Going to the bigger agencies will reduce the chances of you getting ripped off or conned when looking for homes to rent. They are also likely to have more properties on their books. Try out a number of agencies before making a final decision to ensure you get a good deal.

Once you choose an agency, check that they have a legal business license. If you rent a house



A group of British students show off the basic Kungfu skills they learned from their teacher in Beijing. Overseas students are becoming part of the community in the lanes and neighborhoods where they live.

CFP Photo

through an agency, you may be asked to pay as much as the equivalent of one month's rent to the agency. Some of the agencies may even ask for 'information fees' of between 100 yuan and 500 yuan before they take you to the house. We recommend you avoid those agents.

Wang Yunfan, a graduate from Beijing University, who found a one-room apartment for 800 yuan a month on Internet last year, ended up getting cheated. "I called who I thought was the landlord but it was a housing agency," he said. Wang was asked to pay for 300 yuan just to look at the apartment. "As the apartment was quite

cheap, I finally decided to pay the money," Wang said. To avoid being cheated again, he signed a contract with the housing agency, which gave a promise that if he didn't like the apartment, they would show him around other apartments for free. Wang then called three other landlords himself to try to avoid paying more agency fees. Unfortunately, all the landlords said the apartments were unavailable. Wang went back to the housing agency to try to get them to pay back the information fee. "But they said according to the contract, their responsibility was to keep giving me information and that they wouldn't pay me back,"

Wang said. "I felt really stupid."

Make sure you check the real estate's certification when you meet the landlord. Tenants rent out some houses when they want to move out and avoid paying a fine for breaking the contract. It may save money going through renters but it may also end up being more trouble than it's worth..

3. Check your apartment thoroughly before moving in

It's important to check the gas, water and locks of the house you want to rent before signing any contracts. The water pressure on higher floors may be low. Ideally you should get the front door locks changed as the agent and former

tenants may have keys.

Finally, be sure to carefully read and understand the terms of the rental agreement because once you sign, you will be bound to uphold the terms of the contract. Make sure you get answers to all your questions. For example, can you keep pets in the apartment? Is smoking allowed? How much notice do you need to give the landlord before you move out?

Usually, rent is paid every three months (some house-owners will ask for a half-yearly or yearly payments). You will also be asked for a deposit, usually as much as one month's rent.

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By Chu Meng

It took far longer than expected to hit the big screens in China. But the film *Tokyo Trial*, which was once lumbered with the ungainly title *International Military Tribunal for the Far-East*, finally opened nation-wide this month to rave critical reviews. In all honesty, I can happily, and as objectively as is possible, say that it is a must see film, if you live in China or Japan or much of South-east Asia.



The court scene



A scene from the movie

A patriotic movie

Unquestionably it is an important film and somewhat unprecedented in Chinese filmmaking. For starters, almost 80 percent of the film is in English and Japanese, rather than Chinese. There are Chinese subtitles throughout.

While its subject is the trial and eventual punishment of Japanese war criminals, and by historical fact can only be viewed as a war against Japanese aggression. It is not anti-Japan, or more precisely, it is not anti-Japanese people, much to the contrary, to my surprise.

Maybe that is why this so-called mainstream patriotic movie did so well at the box office. Ten days after its debut on September 1, the film had amassed more than 10 million yuan at the box office, despite competition from Hollywood blockbuster *X-Men III*.

Realities of history

The Tokyo Trial, which took place after World War II ended, lasted for two and a half years from May 1946 to November 1948. The prosecution team was made up of judges

from 11 nations to the gallows for the Japanese Pearl Harbor attack.

"We had full access to the historical records, and the film is much more than a brief synopsis of the events on the screen than a mere historical points," Gao Qiang said. "My crew did a lot of research to finish the film on historical details."

It is a powerful and wrenching film that tells the story of the Tokyo Trial from the perspective of the World War. However, some minor transgressions by historians and the film's length are its only pant points out.

As stated, I have not seen the film thoroughly, but I will mention a few points about how dire

Tokyo Trial

Ken Zhu, the Taiwan idol from the band F4, who plays the role of a Chinese journalist in the movie, was obviously concerned to make sure the documentary was not too dry. The Taiwanese starlet Kelly Lin, who plays a Japanese girl and falls in love with Ken Zhu, was also clearly cast in that role to attract more Chinese youth to watch the film and guarantee that it becomes a box office hit.

It was also obvious that Ken Zhu and Kelly Lin wanted to put on good performances in the film. Unfortunately they failed. Their performances were generally dull.

- Han Manman, writer of *Beijing Today*

I would rather read a history book than watch a movie that tries to recapture history. A historical event is something we will never fully understand but we will get closer to that understanding by reading about it rather than watching it on screen.

I admire the director's strength, because it's very difficult to tell a story about the *Tokyo Trial* in several hours. There are plenty of details about the history of the Japanese invasion of China, so choosing the historical materials and retelling the stories is quite hard work for the director.

The film lacks a sense of the impulsive. My excitement was always extinguished as the ruthless black screen segmented the plot again and again. The whole plot is like a piece of floating wood that sometimes would sink a little bit deep, but would float on the surface most of the time.

- He Jianwei, writer of *Beijing Today*



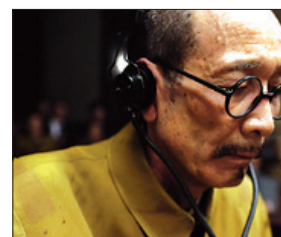
Judges in the court



Zeng Jiang plays Xiang Zhejun



Liu Songren plays Mei Ru'ao



War criminal Matsui Iwane

s. They sent seven war criminals, including Hideki Tojo, prime Minister during the Pearl Harbor attack, to the dock in 1941. The movie is based on the fully translated scripts to what appeared in the courtroom; we only had a small part of the fictional sub-plot, which is sensitive and compelling on its own. It appeared in brief plot in the movie, but Gao Qunshu, director of the movie, spent more than a year doing research on the script, which is based on real events. It is an emotionally powerful film. It is a mostly accurate reproduction of the Second World War, but it is not important but little known. However there still are a few scenes, which some Chinese people think are at least one surviving participant. I will not actually review the movie here for reasons of subjectivity. I will make a couple of observations. Director Gao Qunshu chose to pic-

torially tell his tale. Perhaps because this was his first theatrical film after enjoying huge success in Chinese television dramas he went for a couple of stylistic conceits that, while innovative for the market here, without some stellar acting and story telling, could have proven fatally repetitious.

Choice of shots

Joseph Bosco is an actor in the movie who plays one of the 11 international judges. He is an author and veteran journalist who is currently a Visiting Professor of Journalism at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China.

For one, the story is told visually almost exclusively in extreme close-ups. Although they are powerful often enough, after a while one begins to become aware of it as an effect thereby in truth weakening the message.

He said, "For instance, while my role is important more as an historical set-piece rather than a narrative character, there are many minutes at a time when this ugly face is full screen yet I speak not a word. Thank

God, I had enough acting experience to realize that the tightness of some shots meant that something damn well better be going on in my mind and on my face."

He continued, "The second powerful stylistic conceit that I think is used too often is that every scene cuts to black before the next appears. It is a very dramatic device, but I liken it to a writer who falls too deeply in love with the exclamation point. The very dramatic and quite wonderful score of the film musically reinforces each cut to black, therefore adding to the self-consciously repetitive effect of the device."

A truly international movie

The movie, which cost 18 million yuan (US\$2.25 million), involves actors and actresses from Hong Kong and Taiwan, among others. They recreate court scenes from 60 years ago in Chinese, English and Japanese.

Gao revealed that some Japanese companies have shown interest in the movie and it is quite likely to be screened in Japan as well as the rest of East Asia.



War criminals in the dock



The court scene

al is a hit



Photos provided by Liu Jun

Some of the comments ascribed to the judges and those on trial were altered to fit a prescribed notion of reality as defined by the Chinese government. The fully translated scripts in English had to be Chinese-translated. The Chinese role in the Tokyo Trial was close to meaningless, so this film is meant to fix that.

There are people who are attending because it is a love story. But much of all this is hype, pumped up by the same government that finances movie projects like this one. It is nothing like a hit abroad. This is political, and only slightly cinematic.

- An anonymous movie critic in his personal web blog

I must confess that I am exceedingly proud to be a small part of a film that should be seen and discussed by as many folks who can because of its gripping, ripping, soulful historical subject that to this very day still has front-page relevance for all of East Asia. It is also a damn good story and motion picture.

- Joseph Bosco, a foreign actor who plays one of the 11 international judges

It is an important movie, regardless of the government's push, because it finally showcases the Tokyo Trial. Hollywood and independents have long ignored post-war Japan and focused instead on Europe.

- Lin Bai, an assistant professor at the China Communication University



Kelly Lin plays a Japanese reporter



War criminal Hideki Tojo

Lost Cosmonaut

By Daniel Kalder

Synopsis:

Daniel Kalder doesn't want to be a tourist. He doesn't want to go to the places everyone goes to, he doesn't want to see the tour-book sights. He wants to be an anti-tourist – though he realizes it's hard to find any spot that hasn't made it into the guidebooks and onto the intrepid travelers' itineraries.

Where to go, then? Kalder

chooses some of the more obscure pseudo-statelets of the former Soviet Union – ones in Europe, no less. So close, and yet so far.

Obscurity is pretty much the only thing he's looking for. He wants to go to places beyond off the beaten track. Otherwise he's not too particular:

I had decided to visit the Republic of Udmurtia, on the basis that it had a strange name that echoed

the words "ugly" and "mud." Apart from that I knew nothing.

"The book is divided into four sections, each devoted to a separate expedition – to Tatarstan, Kalmykia, Mari El, and Udmurtia. They're not at the ends of the earth (in fact, they are all officially in Europe), but pretty much no one travels there for fun. But that's part of their appeal to Kalder"

– www.complete-review.com

This book sounds like the perfect antithesis to all those "this is a country of contrasts" cliché, simpering-style travel books...

"Kalder loves to tell tall tales. (...) Such episodes are irreverent and laugh-out-loud hilarious, but they achieve something far deeper, establishing a constant tension between the reality of these places and the travel narratives you want to hear. Kalder plays on this perfectly – inviting you to be complicit, daring you to recognize your own desire for something other than authentic, real experiences. You want the spectacle. Isn't that why you bought a travel book?"

– Karrie Higgins, *The Los Angeles Times*

So it is a bit of a dig at traditional travel writing?

"Lost Cosmonaut could be an irreverent jibe at 'traditional' travel writing. Kalder questions the value of the travel writer in the discovered world."

– Rory MacLean, *Sunday Telegraph*

Does Kalder manage to have fun on his travels?

"Daniel Kalder's style is to travel to the grimmest places imaginable and attempt to have the worst time possible there, like a kind of Free Presbyterian with a visa. (...) A cult waiting to happen, it's a mischievous squib of a book in which nothing happens very quickly and the cast of characters extends to a range of morose Soviets apoloquizing for their homeland, but Kalder's passion for it all is sincere and infectious, even when visiting Peter the Great's museum of bottled mutant babies."

– Allan Brown, *Sunday Times*

Bottled mutant babies. Lovely. I'm booking the tickets as we speak. But seriously now, does Kalder's book tell us anything useful about these backwater republics?

"Kalder has written a readable book that for the first time assembles essential historical and factual information about the four republics. This is a considerable achievement, as the process of Russification was so successful that there are very few people who still remember old traditions and practices."

– Dusko Doder, *The Guardian*

It appears that not everyone agrees...

"Kalder takes a non-serious approach to travel – and to almost everything. He jokes a lot (and has quite a few funny (mis)adventures to tell), but he's also not very serious about almost everything, a laid back attitude that works quite well for the book but can also be somewhat irritating. A few flights of fancy go too far, and some of the stunts he pulls feel a bit desperate (aside from recounting his adventures he



offers things such as movie-concepts in synopsis form). He does try to provide a bit of history and background for the places he visits, but doesn't really get beyond the bare essentials."

– www.complete-review.com

Does Kalder develop a fondness for the places he visits or does he end up hating them all?

"The places Daniel Kalder visits are real enough, but he refuses to find anything interesting about them. He may think this is hilarious, but in fact it merely emphasizes how misguided his book is. (...) There is no real passion in Kalder's boredom. He wants to hate everywhere, be miserable and revel in some sort of postmodern existentialism, but the most he can say is that everything is shit. (...) The whole thing is incredibly frustrating. Kalder's student humor occasionally prompts a belly laugh, but more out of desperation than anything else."

– Viv Groskop, *New Statesman*

I'm not sure everyone agrees...

"Curiously captivating (.....) Much of this fine first book is hilarious and often abrasive. But Kalder's observations are always underpinned by a fondness for these hidden Europeans, and the cultures edging towards extinction."

– Askold Krushelnycky, *The Independent*

Over to Zinovy for the last word...

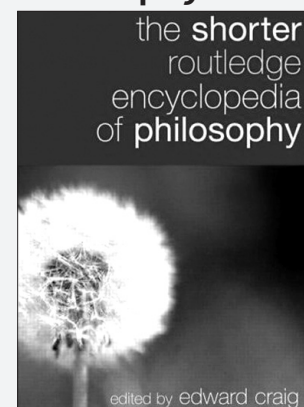
"Daniel Kalder is a clever young man pretending to be a naive fool, whose extensive knowledge of Russia is well hidden inside a mock travelogue that invites the reader to visit the most boring, bleak and bloated landscapes on earth (...) With ruthless clarity and irony, Kalder exposes the essential dreariness of daily life in Russia omitted by the 'wise men', purveyors of the exotic."

– Zinovy Zinik, *Times Literary Supplement*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

The Shorter Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy



By Edward Craig
Routledge, 1,104 pages, 388 yuan

The Shorter REP presents the very best of the acclaimed 10 volume *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* in a single work. By selecting and presenting – in full – the most important entries for the beginning philosopher and truncating the rest of the entries to survey the breadth of the field, *The Shorter REP* will be the only desk reference on philosophy that anyone will need.

Available:

Beijing Sanlian bookstore (SDX Joint Publishing Company)

Where: 22, Meishuguan Donglu

Tel: 6400 1122

Eldest

By Paolini Christopher
Doubleday, 509 pages, 130 yuan

Surpassing its popular prequel *Eragon*, this second volume in the Inheritance trilogy shows growing maturity and skill on the part of its very young author, who was only 17 when the first volume was published in 2003. The story is solidly in the tradition (some might say derivative) of the classic heroic quest fantasy, with the predictable cast of dwarves, elves, and dragons-but also including some imaginatively creepy creatures of evil.

Stadler's Education Guide Beijing

By John Stadler
Beijing Ringier, 282 pages, 100 yuan

"It's a consumer guide – our goal is to help you make the right choice, not convince you to attend one school or another," says John Stadler. The book provides detailed and authoritative reviews of approximately 35 international and bilingual schools in Beijing coupled with information submitted by the schools themselves. The information you find in these guides is generally unavailable elsewhere: Number, type, training of teachers, nationality breakdown of student population, Special needs and ESL policies.

Available: Beijing Foreign Language Bookstore

Where: 235, Wangfujing Dajie

Tel: 6512 6911

(By Han Manman)

By Chu Meng

There are many different kinds of crab and freshwater lakes boast more than 20 species, the most famous of which is the golden-claw crab of Yang Cheng Lake. At the end of autumn, fresh plump Yang Cheng crabs appear on the markets in large numbers, adding another delicacy to Beijing's kitchens.

Yang Cheng Lake lies in the north-east of Suzhou. The clear water and abundant insects and grasses make it an excellent environment for the crabs. They remain in freshwater lakes until September when they cast their shells at the start of the mating and spawning season. They then crawl east towards the juncture of the Yangtze River and the sea. This period is the annual crabbing season.



Tips:

Crabs - how do you eat yours?

By Chu Meng

Origin:

Crabs from Yang Cheng Lake are supposed to be the best, but that is like saying wine from one region is better than another. It has, however, been known for some people to breed crabs in other parts of the country, and then take them to Yang Cheng Lake for the last couple of weeks of their maturation before selling them as Yang Cheng Lake crabs. To make sure you get real Yang Cheng Lake crabs, pick those with laser labels on the shell.

Quality:

When buying crabs, you should look for those of a green or brownish color. You can also try pressing the legs of the crab with your fingers. If they are soft then they are under-nourished and therefore not good to eat. Look for a high 'crown'. The bit between the eyes and the mouth. The higher up this is, the more crab roe there is in the shell and the better quality the crab is. Don't buy dead crabs.

Where to buy:

Wet markets like Hong Qiao Aquatic Market have the best prices. But they also have poor quality ones as well. Big supermarkets like Carrefour, can usually guarantee good quality, but are little bit more expensive. It's best to buy the crabs untied so you can check whether they are alive, and can wash them when you get home. Prices are always negotiable. Yang Cheng Lake crabs cost between 300 yuan and 500 yuan per kilogram.

How to cook:

Cook the crabs in a steamer for exactly 20mins, no more, no less.

How to eat:

Personally, I prefer eating crab in its shell, rather than getting someone to pull the meat out for me and placing it into a bowl. Eat the legs first, then the two hairy pincers, followed by the cover at the bottom (the one that tells you whether it is a male or female). Then eat the top cover. Then the body, making sure you remove the gray gill bits. It is more about the process of eating rather than the actual content. Crabmeat is best enjoyed with vinegar, sugar and diced ginger.

Drinking rice wine:

Chinese usually like to drink plum wine with their crabs rather than beer.

Important tip:

If a crab manages to get hold one of your fingers with its claw, put a chopstick in the other claw and it will grab it and release your finger. This is because a crab can only grab with one claw at a time.

Yang Cheng Lake Crab: an autumn delicacy



Photo provided by Lu Lu Restaurant

Lu Lu Restaurant: traditional Shanghai cuisine in a modern Beijing setting

By Chu Meng

The hustle and bustle of this place tells you everything. It is an excellent Shanghai-style restaurant in Beijing, which boasts all the traditional Shanghai dishes and specializes in those made with crabs. It can be difficult getting a table but it's well worth the effort.

A 'Lu' is a crane-like bird and is also the name of the owner. There are three branches in Shanghai and all of them are very popular. Lulu's serves up dozens of seafood specialties, plucked from the restaurant's bubbling water tanks.

The crab casserole with dressing is one of the head chef's signature dishes and comes highly recommended. The dish is traditional Chinese cuisine with a very western twist. The chef cooks up creamy mushroom soup before adding fresh crabmeat, seasoned stuffing crumbs, chopped green bell pepper and celery. After combining all the ingredients, he pours a cup of mayonnaise and a cup of Tabasco sauce into the mixture and then bakes it at 350 degree centigrade for 45 to 55 minutes, until the dish bubbles.

There are about 30 crab dishes on Lu Lu's menu including hairy crab stir fried with glutinous rice cake, crab meat balls stewed in chicken soup, crab tofu, stir fired crab meat paste and steamed Yang Cheng Lake crab with house dipping sauce.

Lulu Restaurant

Military Museum Branch: 9 Fuxinglu Road, west gate of the China People's Revolution Military Museum, Haidian

Open: 11am-2:30pm, 5pm-10pm

Tel: 6858 3661

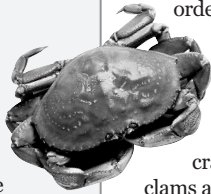
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Ciyun Temple Branch: 1 Ciyun Temple, west of Ciyun Temple Bridge, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-2:30pm, 5pm-10pm

Tel: 6508 0101

Cost: 100 yuan per person



Yu Gong Yu Po - the perfect spot for seafood fans

By Huang Daohen

Yu Gong Yu Po, which means fisherman and fisherwoman, is a Guangzhou seafood restaurant, where guests can choose the seafood themselves. With a goal of serving up value-for-money seafood, the restaurant is always busy so it's advised to arrive early to ensure you get a table.

There is no English menu, so it may be worth going with a Chinese friend. You may

order food by going to the front of the restaurant and picking the live seafood on display, including a variety of fish, lobsters, crabs, shrimps, scallops, clams and snails. The restaurant offers a variety of cooking methods and sauces to go with your choice of seafood. The entire menu, containing the price and ingredients of each dish, is displayed at your table.

A must for any who pays a visit to Yu Gong Yu Po is the sweet and spicy crab. The crab used in this dish is not Chinese Dazha crab, but freshwater black crab from Guangdong province.

Yu Gong Yu Po's version of this dish is served with a spe-

cial soup. The boss, Mr Wang, explained that the soup contains more than 30 spices and Chinese medicinal herbs and takes several days to prepare. The result is a delicious crab dish that sends the taste buds spinning.

Yu Gong Yu Po Seafood Restaurant (Jiuxianqiao)

Where: Electronic Technology Building, 12 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

Open: 9am-10pm

Price: 80yuan per person

Tel: 6435 1189/1187

Other outlets:

Yayun Village: Bldg 4, 2, Anhui Li, Yayun Village

Tel: 6491 2736

Shangdi: 88, Nongda South Road, Haidian

Tel: 6296 7998/0098

Maliandao: 1 Qixiang Hotel, 16 yard, Maliandao, Xuanwu

Tel: 6326 5859

Yangqiao: 1, Jiaomen North Road, Fengtai

Tel: 6757 0600

Huayuan Bridge: 38, Chengongzhuang West Main Street, Haidian

Tel: 5170 0888/0999

Xuanwumen: 47, Guangnei Street, Xuanwu

Tel: 6302 9991 /6493



Photo provided by Yu Gong Yu Po

Braised crab Sichuan style

By He Jianwei

As you enter the main hall of Lapopo's branch near the Agricultural Exhibition Center, you'll pick up a scent of Chinese tradition, with red lanterns in the hall and gray bricks on the facade.

Inside, the restaurant is decorated with elaborate sculptures, which look like something you might find in a cave.

Lapopo, a typical Sichuan-style restaurant, has been in Beijing eight years and has eight branches.

The braised crab with hot pepper is Lapopo's specialty and was rated as one of the 'the most popular dishes' at the Beijing International Gourmet Festival. "The crabs are black crabs which have been bred in Burma and the biggest can weigh up to 1,500 grams each," said Lu Bin, the hall manager of Lapopo's Agricultural Exhibition Branch.

The crabs are braised and cooked with fried potatoes, winter bamboo shoots, celery and slices

of roots of lotus. "The best thing about our crabs is the homemade source, spicy and hot," said Lu.

Diners are given throwaway plastic gloves and pliers with which to eat the crabs, which cost 68 yuan for 500 grams.

Lapopo is a great place to bring a group of friends but Lu said, not ideal for smart business dinners. "Crabs aren't suitable for the formal dinner because eating crabs is a fairly undignified process," he warned.

Lapopo

Agricultural Exhibition Branch: 16 Dongsanhuanbeilu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6500 6262

Shangdi Branch: No.19 Xinxilu, Shangdi, Haidian

Tel: 8278 0785

Beichen Branch: 304 Building Beichendonglu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6497 6455

Yayuncun Branch: 2 Building Anyuanbeili, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

Tel: 6493 2206

399 yuan voucher

Spend over 200 yuan at Mu Jin Yuan Korean barbeque restaurant (Huanjing Xinwen Building, Chongwen) and get a voucher worth 399 yuan. For details, call 6711 0707.

**40 yuan voucher**

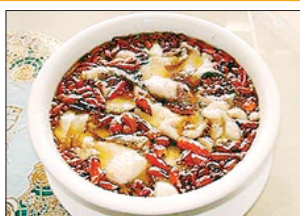
Spend over 100 yuan on L'Oreal products at Watson's (Wudaokou, Haidian) and get a 40-yuan voucher until October 11.

**Free beer**

Eat at Ge Na Wang Brazilian barbeque restaurant (Fenghua Haojing Caishikou, Xuanwu) and drink beer for free at lunchtime until October 6. For details, call 6356 0050.

**22% off**

Eat at Ma La Fang Cheng Shi (15 Xiuyuan Huizhong Beilu, Chaoyang) and get 22% off until September 30 (including drinks and seafood). For details, call 6498 2798.

**30 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Jiang Tai Wu Er Japanese restaurant (Lan Bao Building, Xidawanglu, Chaoyang) and get a 30-yuan discount voucher (excluding drinks) until September 30. For details, call 8599 9009.

**15% off**

Buy an ice-cream cake at Haagen Dazs in Guo Ji Ju Le Bu (21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) and get 15% off if it's your birthday on September 30. For details, call 5172 1606.

**100 yuan voucher**

Spend over 200 yuan at Parkson shopping mall (38 Xueyuanlu, Haidian) and get a 100-yuan voucher until October 6. For details, call 6235 9377.

**10% off**

Eat at Ping Ting barbeque (Zhonghui Beilu, Yayuncun, Chaoyang) and get 10% off at lunchtime until September 30. For details, call 6496 9392.

**Free gift**

Spend over 2,480 yuan on Sisley products at Saite shopping mall (22 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) and get a bag of eight free cosmetics including, color lipstick, hydra cream, 10ml perfume and cheek pink glow powder. Call 6512 4488.

**20% off**

Eat at He Shi Xiao Ding Japanese restaurant (3 Maizidian Xijie, Chaoyang) and get 20% off until September 30. For details, call 8458 3600.

**40% off**

Spend over 200 yuan at Tai Ping Yang shopping mall (Pacific Center, 2 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang) and get 40% off until October 8. For details, call 6539 3888.

30%-60% off

Reebok clothes and shoes will be 30%-60% off during October 1-7 at Yun Dong 100 (B1 Xidan Wenhua-guangchang, Xidan). For details, call 6602 6630.

(By Terence Lu)

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By He Jianwei

Have you ever calculated how many minutes you spend in the washroom, including on your closet tools and in your bathtub or showering? According to the statistics of the WTO (not World Trade Organization, but World Toilet Organization), every person will go to the toilet six or eight times every day, that is 2,500 times

every year. And a person will spend more than two years in the toilet in a lifetime. As for showering or bathing, a man will spend 117 days and a woman 531 days supposing their life span is 70 years.

The washroom is the room you spend the most time besides the bedroom, and has become more and more important for the young generation.

Washroom:

The designers' ideal washroom

ideas and ideals



Designed by Zhang Chunjie

Zhang Chunjie, interior designer

"The washroom should be of practical use for me at the first point. My ideal washroom would be in the style of simplicity and naturalism.

"The washroom should permit the light and air to enter. I'd like to put green plants in my washroom, not just for decoration, but also to keep the air fresh.

"In order to give my washroom a flavor of nature, I would put a big stone there, on which lies a wooden basin with a tap.

"The walls in my washroom would be brick and slate. I don't like wallpaper, even if it is waterproof."

Zhang Wenqin, interior designer

"The style of washroom depends on the size of the room and the whole style of the department. I prefer the country style or so-called nature style. I don't like shiny things in my washroom, as it makes me feel unsafe.

"I will choose ceramic tiles or mosaic in the areas that easily get wet, with wallpaper for the areas that are dryer.

"Whether the size of the washroom is suitable or not depends on the size of human body. If you can't stretch yourself in the washroom, it's probably bad design.

"The style of the accoutrements should be in accordance with the style of the washroom. I prefer an ancient-style with a traditional designed floor.

"Modern design concentrates on the flowing properties of space. The separation means conservativeness, which is a traditional logic to design the walls around the space."

Ouyang Changtao, interior designer

"I prefer open designed washrooms. If the space of my washroom is large, I would put the bathtub in my bedroom or the balcony, and build a dwarf wall to separate the washroom and the bedroom. Near the dwarf wall would sit a reclining chair.

"I once designed a villa. Because the main washroom was near a balcony, I decided to make an opening in the wall between the washroom and balcony. Then I built a glass room with curtains on the balcony and put in the bathtub. The owner of the house could lie in the bathtub while enjoying the beautiful night scenery.

"I believe the bathtub is for leisurely life, while the shower is for the busy life. If you want to have a bathtub in your house, why not make it more comfortable to relax and enjoy your life?

"The most important detail of the design for my ideal washroom is a piece of wood floor lying beside the brink of the bathtub. I'd rather stamp on the wood than on the cold ceramic tiles after my bath.

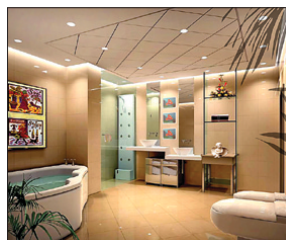
"I also like books and magazines to be available."



Designed by Ouyang Changtao



Designed by Zhang Chunjie



Designed by Zhang Chunjie



Designed by Zhang Wenqin



Designed by Zhang Wenqin

The toilet dreamed of

Wei Lai, a graduate student

"I wish there was a toilet that could be concealed. For instance, it could be concealed in the wall. If you want to use it, just press a button. It could save a lot of space and could solve the odor problem. I believe this kind of toilet would make your washroom more beautiful and easier to tidy. Furthermore, it could be cool that you can't see the toilet in your washroom, and it would show that the owner has a personality.

Qian Wei, a clerk in a video company

"I've loved my toilet all my life. I like to read books sitting on it. However, my mother has a deep horror of my reading habit and she always hides my books. It is the same after my marriage, only my wife has taken the place of my mother. Therefore, I have dreamed again and again that there is a toilet in the middle of a washroom abundant with shelves of books."

Hu Liming, a government official

"On TV I have heard about a toilet which checks your health. There is a transducer buried in the pipe, which can analyze the components of your excrement automatically. As a result, it will warn you to improve your diet if your body has any problems. The data will be sent to your doctor directly through a computer connected to the toilet. The doctors will give you advice on how to improve your diet. I am really looking forward to using this bog."



Designed by Ouyang Changtao

Frame your good old days

By Gan Tian
Remember the good old days? They are all in those black-white photos set in wooden frames. Oh, yes, frames can always remind you of the old days. Different frame, different mood. Elegant or corny, noble or nostalgic, lovely or stupid – you've been framed.



Lover's frame

I don't want this. I just kicked my lady friend to the curb. You know, I think we just wanted different things...we tried to talk it through, but, well, you know. If I were more sensitive, I might crack the glass on this, then stare at it while next to a window as the rain streams down outside. But I'm not. Haaa ha ha ha.

Available: A189, A50, A 46, Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 20-60 yuan per pair



Pencil box frame

You buy a pencil box. You take it home, turns out it's a photo frame too! Take a photo of your pens and put it in, that way if anyone steals one, you'll notice right away. Cunning and anal...a good combination for a pencil box, but probably not for a milkshake.

Available: Shanhe, No.135, Xijiekounandajie, Xicheng
Price: 28 yuan

Muslim style photo frames

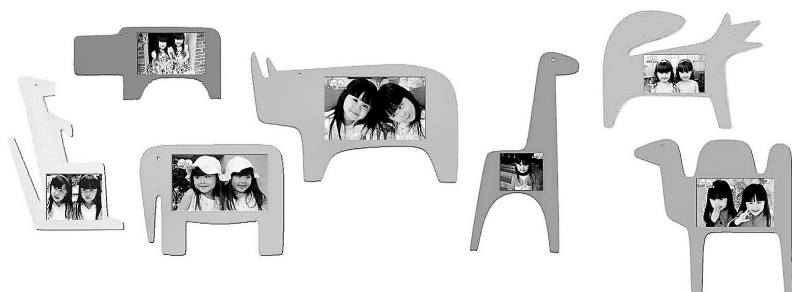
Muslim stuff has been all the rage with Muslims for



Wooden fantasy

Good old fashioned craftsmanship, and even hand made to your specifications. That's some nice wood you got there.

Available: Wooden Fantasy, A40, Wudaokou Clothing Market, besides Beijing Technology University, Wudaokou, Haidian
Price: 89 yuan each (100 yuan above for hand-making)



thousands of years. See what the fuss is all about with these beautifully carved, character daubed frames.

Available: Muslim World, No.15, Xijiekounandajie, Xicheng

Price: 248 yuan each

Book frame

Look at that guy reading a book. Must be a real intellectual. Hang on a minute, he's not reading – he's looking at a photo of a monkey scratching its bum! That's not a book at all, it's a picture frame. And he has really weird taste in photography.

Available: A165 Fifth Floor, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 49 yuan

Disney's world photo frame

This is more like it. Cinderella, Ariel, Beauty. The maidens of the Disney world. But imagine my beast-like visage as I survey the shops only to be presented with obese bear Winnie again and again and again. I've got photos of myself eating honey with no trousers on thank you very much!

Available: Disney World, Zhongyuan Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng

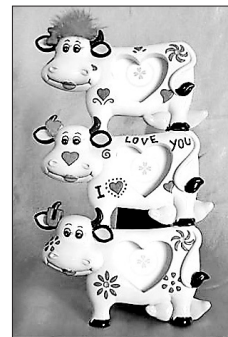
Price: 199 yuan

Cow frame

There's you. Staring out of a porthole in the side of a cow. But why?

Available: Supermarket, Beichen Shopping Center, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

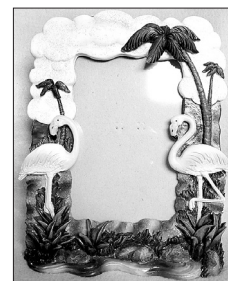
Price: 20 yuan each



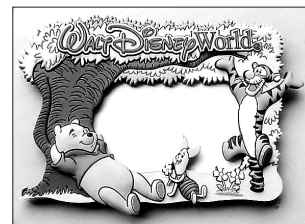
Cow frame



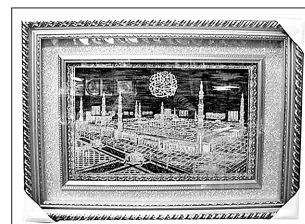
Pencil box frame



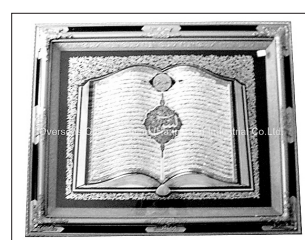
Beach frame



Disney's world photo frame



Muslim style photo frame



Book frame

Leaf photo frame

Photos of polluted rivers, speared whales, clubbed seals, oil spills, smoke-stacks, petrol engines and melting ice-caps need not apply.

Available: No.54, First Floor, Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian

Price: 34 yuan



Kids frame

If being a kid means being a funny shape and low in price, this frame is it! Because it's both! Kids like shouting too, right?! What was that?! I'm frightening you?!

Available: C5, Wudaokou Clothing Market, besides Beijing Technology University, Wudaokou, Haidian

Price: 9 yuan each

Music makes good medicine

By Huang Daohen

Music, from traditional folk to heavy metal and rock and roll, has always been a great healer. In the Bible, we learned about how David played the harp to help ease the severe depression of King Saul.

Tempo may be the key to how well music soothes a savage breast when it comes to improving well-being. Vincent Marchello, music therapy director of the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center in New York City, suggests that it is the rhythm of the music that has the calming effect on us although we may not be very conscious about it. He pointed out that when we were babies in our mother's womb, we probably were influenced by the heartbeat of our mother. We respond to the soothing music at later stages in life, perhaps associating it with the safe, relaxing

ing, protective environment provided by our mother.

New research shows that slow music, consisting of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (slow classical), raga (Indian classical music), and Anton Webern (slow, dodecaphonic music), produces a relaxing effect, while musical pauses further modulate heart rhythms and circulation patterns in a beneficial way. The effects were most striking for those people who have musical training.

The surprising thing was many selections of funk/rap (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Vivaldi (fast classical) and heavy metal as well as various music containing loud drums or flute were extremely soothing. The most profound finding was any music performed live and even if it was somewhat discordant had a very beneficial response. To the music, the normal voltage-spiking pattern of the mood changed to a smooth sinusoidal waveform. The entire human energetic system is extremely influenced by sounds, the physical body responds specifically to certain tones and frequencies.

Clinical findings on music

1. Music was found to reduce heart rates and to promote higher body temperature, which is an indication of the onset of relaxation.
2. Combining music with relaxation therapy was more effective than doing relaxation

therapy alone.

3. Playing music in the background while we are working, seemingly unaware of the music itself, has been found to reduce the stress.

4. Music was beneficial to reduce the pain during dental procedures.

5. Music has also been shown to have beneficial properties including improving athletic performance and enhancing motor function in people with neurological impairments.

In their words

Caroline Dietz, college student

"Play a tune on the guitar and sing along, that works and helps me a lot even in the worst of times. By the time I'm done with the song I've come back into myself, and more into reality. Music is a great thing."

Vincent Marchello, doctor

"A clinical study concerning music therapy shows that stress can be easily entrained (and subconsciously) by using music. Stress has an impact on cardiovascular disease. Music can not only reduce stress, but it can enhance the cardiovascular therapy that one gets."

Sonya Carlson, office worker

"Oh, it's very soothing. I have found there are messages in the songs the singer is singing to you and it lifts your spirit. You feel a lot better. Sometimes, when she finished, you have a smile and some tears too. It can also just lift people's spirits and decrease people's feelings of isolation, especially for those who live alone in Beijing."

Jeff Burton, teacher

"I liked music when I was a little boy. Actually, I've no idea what medical use music may have. But music is able to enhance my mood when I was down. Music serves as a distraction

from the pain. I always tell my students to enjoy music."

Maximizing the effects of music

No music is good for everyone. People have different tastes. It is important that one should like the music being played. The following are general guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of music.

1. To wash away stress, try taking a 20-minute 'sound bath'. Put some relaxing music on your stereo, then lie in a comfortable position on a couch near the speakers. As the music plays, allow it to wash over you, rinsing off the stress from the day. Focus on your breathing, letting it deepen, slow and become regular. Concentrate on the silence between the notes in the music; this keeps you from analyzing the music and makes relaxation more complete.

2. Choose music with a slow rhythm, slower than the natural heartbeat, which is about 72 beats per minute. Music that has a repeating or cyclical pattern is found to be effective in most people.

3. If you need stimulation after a long day at work, go for faster music. For a deeper experience, you can wear earphones to focus your attention and to avoid distraction.

4. Go for music you are familiar with – such as a childhood favorite or favorite oldies. Familiarity often breeds calmness.

5. Take walks with your favorite music playing on the Walkman. Inhale and exhale in tune with the music. Let the music take you. This is a great stress reliever, combining exercise, imagery and music.

6. Listening to the sounds of nature, such as ocean waves or the calm of a deep forest, can also reduce depression. You can buy tapes of these sounds in many music stores.



Toasting the Tsingtao brewery



Pick 'n' mix fish



Bags of beer



The imaginatively titled Number Six Beach

By Tom Mackenzie

There's something surreal about seeing Bavarian-style buildings in the heart of a Chinese city. Grand German architecture juxtaposed by dumpling shops and kebab stalls, the Chinese national flag flying alongside an imposing Catholic church, teashops nestled next to brightly painted villas.

But then Qingdao is no ordinary city. Turned into a concession by the

Germans in the late 19th century, the city itself retains a bizarrely European feel while its inhabitants give off a friendly sense of smug satisfaction. And it's little wonder – as well as being home to the famous Tsingtao Brewery, their city has been chosen to hold the sailing events of the 2008 Summer Olympics. It is also the fourth largest port in China and boasts some of the best beaches in the north of the country.

Qingdao

beer, beaches and a taste of Bavaria

The old town

The pungent smell of dried fish is as good an indicator as the German architecture that you have arrived in Qingdao's old town. Cod, haddock, red snapper, prawns and even sea horses and shark fin are sold, dried and vacuum-packed from dozens of stores along the main shopping streets. There is fresh fish as well, buckets of the stuff, laid out in front of the numerous small restaurants that fill the old town. Make your selection and watch guiltily as it is dispatched on the pavement with a quick thwack. The resulting dish will usually be well worth the spectacle.

St Michel's Catholic Church sits on top of the hill on which the old town is built, its spire a good reference point for those trying

to navigate the town. The church itself would never win an award for architectural beauty, but it's worth a visit simply for the oddity of it all. There are also some good sea views to be had from the back of the church and the walk from there down to the seafront, along quiet residential streets and past yellow painted villas, is a refreshingly relaxing experience for anyone escaping the hustle and bustle of Beijing.

The beaches

Qingdao has six beaches (imaginatively named Number One Beach to Number Six Beach), stretching from the pier in the west to the Military Museum in the east. Beaches Six and Five are the nearest to the old town and are therefore the most popu-

lar but also the most grubby. The sea along this stretch of the town resembles Chinese soup – warm with unidentifiable bits floating in it. But the beaches do make good spots from which to people watch. On a blistering day we looked on as men in black trousers, shirts and smart shiny shoes sat awkwardly in the sand with their girlfriends and wives, who, in high heels and evening attire, sheltered under newspapers from the sun. The cleaner and quieter beaches are to the west and a good half an hour walk or 10-minute taxi drive from the old town. Here the crowds are thinner, interspersed by grinning newlyweds strutting their stuff along the waters edge as photographers take snaps for their wedding albums.

The naval museum

At the same end of town is Qingdao's Naval Museum, a sprawling complex filled with dated looking fighter planes, bombers, anti-aircraft guns, two frigates and a tacky tourist shop housed in a hovercraft. The highlight is the small military submarine moored at the water's edge, which, with its missile turrets and tiny sleeping quarters is a fascinating piece of history.

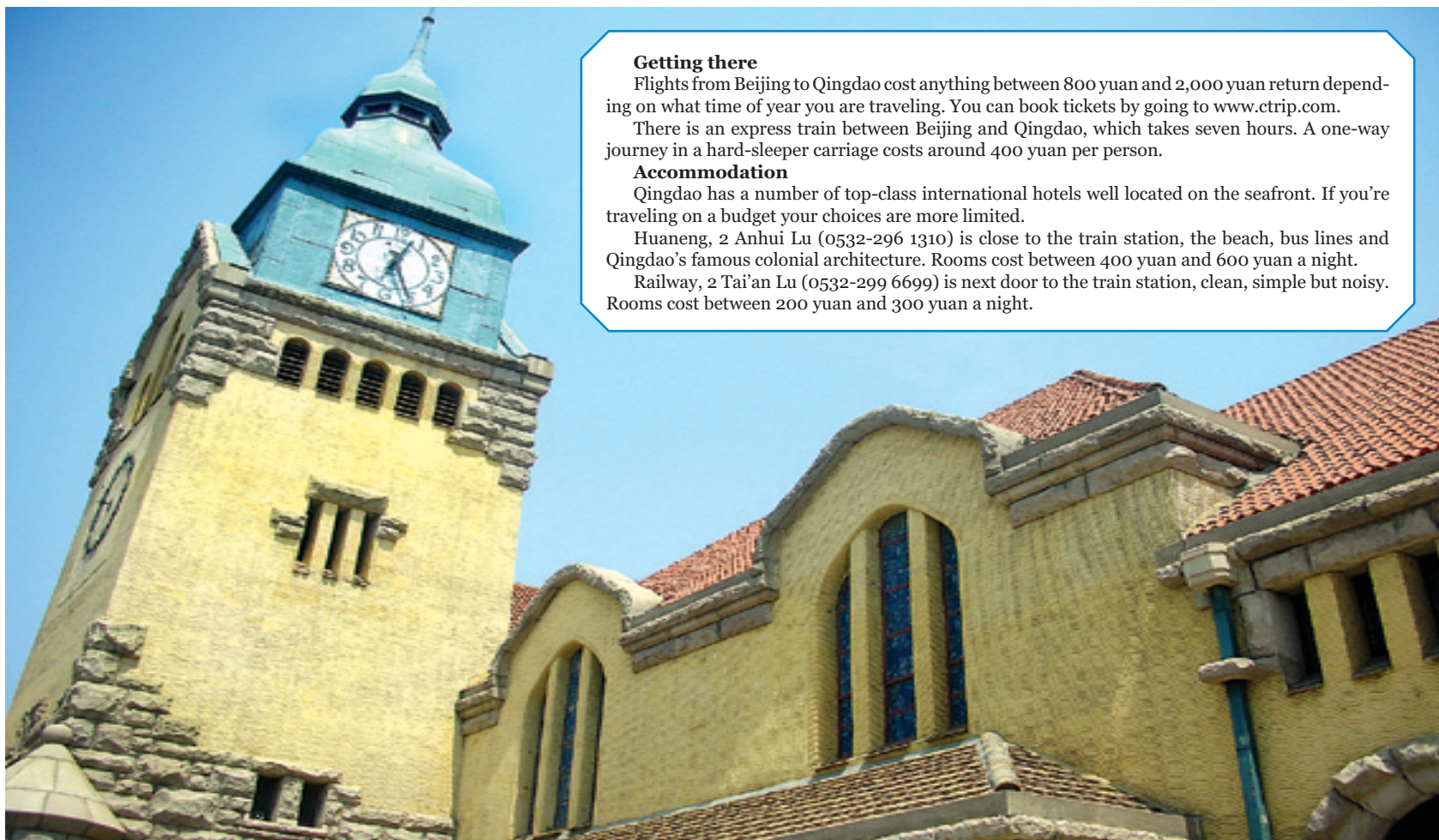
Beyond the old town

Behind the old town is a sprawling industrial metropolis of high rises, hotels and factories. This is the place to come for the more up-market eateries and a taste of Qingdao's growing nightlife, which, bizarrely, includes a bar dedicated entirely to The Beatles. It is also here that you will find the

Tsingtao brewery, a fairly unsightly cluster of buildings through which visitors are given an interesting, yet somewhat rushed, history tour of China's best-known tippie and the chance to indulge in a complimentary glass of the famous brew at the end. One thing the museum fails to explain is why beer in Qingdao is sold in plastic bags – something I still haven't found the answer for.

Night markets

Come nightfall, the seafront by the old town, illuminated by the lights of glittering office blocks across the bay, is the place to see and be seen. Night markets are set up and a choice of seafood, from what looked like baby sharks to sea cucumbers is cooked on outdoor grills.



St Michel's Catholic Church

Getting there

Flights from Beijing to Qingdao cost anything between 800 yuan and 2,000 yuan return depending on what time of year you are traveling. You can book tickets by going to www.ctrip.com.

There is an express train between Beijing and Qingdao, which takes seven hours. A one-way journey in a hard-sleeper carriage costs around 400 yuan per person.

Accommodation

Qingdao has a number of top-class international hotels well located on the seafront. If you're traveling on a budget your choices are more limited.

Huaneng, 2 Anhui Lu (0532-296 1310) is close to the train station, the beach, bus lines and Qingdao's famous colonial architecture. Rooms cost between 400 yuan and 600 yuan a night.

Railway, 2 Tai'an Lu (0532-299 6699) is next door to the train station, clean, simple but noisy. Rooms cost between 200 yuan and 300 yuan a night.

Photos by Tom Mackenzie

Panama Canal – cruise like a trader



A night view of the canal and dock area from a cargo ship

CFP Photo

Considered one of the Eight Wonders of the World, the Panama Canal is one of the most fascinating places in the world, where human genius and skill join to link two oceans and bring the world closer together.

As a busy canal for trading and transportation, it uses a locks system that acts as water elevators raising the ships from sea level (Atlantic or Pacific Oceans) to 26 meters above sea level. Each set of locks carries the name of the town where they were built, such as Gatún, the town on the Atlantic side and Miraflores on the Pacific side.

Have you ever experienced being raised dozens of meters higher than sea level, or seeing ships in the locks more than 20 meters above you? A cruise on the Panama Canal may only take a few hours, but you will be impressed by the marvelous human ingenuity in evidence.

The Panama Canal is about 80 kilometers long, stretching between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Between 13,000 and 14,000 ships use annually, thanks to the work of approximately 9,000 workers, working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, offering transit service to ships of all nations.

History

Even since 8,000 BC the Isthmus of Panama has been utilized as a transit route when man wanted to migrate up and down the American continent.

A sea level canal crossing the Isthmus has been a dream ever since Vasco Nunez de Balboa, a Spanish conquistador and explorer, discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513.

In 1534, the King of Spain, Charles V, ordered the first studies for the construction of a canal through a section of the Isthmus. Although this idea never materialized, the Spaniards built roads paved with stone that were used to transport, by mules, tons of gold and silver coming from Peru to Spain. Traces of these roads still remain today and can be visited.

In 1880, French companies directed by Ferdinand de Lesseps, the builder of the Suez Canal, began construction of the Panama Canal. But after seven years of fighting diseases and the indomitable problems of the jungle terrain, de Lesseps was forced to abandon the project.

In 1903, the province of Panama

declared its independence from Colombia and immediately signed the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty which authorized the United States to start construction of the Canal in 1904. It was completed and started operations on August 15, 1914 when the US cargo ship Ancon made a historic first transit while the war was raging in Europe.

Cruise

When entering from the Pacific side, the first thing one sees is the 'Bridge of the Americas'. In that area were 60 boats waiting to transverse the canal. Some would wait for a couple of days before doing so. Since we had a reservation we would begin our journey through the canal right on time.

We went through two series of locks that raised us 85 feet. It was fascinating to view the ships in the locks ahead of us 27 feet higher than we were.

The locks demonstrated the ingenuity of the US engineers. The water comes in through the force of gravity, there are no pumps.

The 80 foot high lock gates weigh 700 tons but require less than 50 horsepower to open them. They worked more quietly and more smoothly than the doors in most homes. Ships are under power throughout their passage through the canal, but in the locks they are positioned by powerful locomotives, whose essential design has not changed since the canal's opening in 1914.

We were amazed at the ease with which our 79,000 ton ship was raised and maneuvered.

After being raised we went through Gaillard Cut. This eight mile section took eight years to dig. Frequent, massive landslides during the digging exacted a terrible toll in time and lives.

Roughly midway through our transit we entered Gatun Lake, one of the world's largest man-made lakes. The many islands in the lake are actually the tops of hills. You can buy an island, but you'll only get planning permission for a grass hut.

Leaving the locks, we actually did sail off into the sunset – a beautiful and appropriate end to a day of experiencing an awe-inspiring creation of humans.

By Margaret Webster

(<http://www.biz2web.com/grant/panama.htm>)



A bird's-eye-view of the Panama Canal



A ship passing through the dock area



A view of the dock area

Where to book the cruise:

The Miraflores Visitors Center (CVM) on the east side of the Miraflores Locks.

The center is worth a look itself. Four exhibition halls constitute the heart of the CVM. The exhibitions include historic pieces, interactive modules, video presentations, models of the Panama Canal and objects used in Canal operations.

Ticket office opens from 9am to 4pm

Admission:

For a complete package including exhibitions, observation decks, snack bars, restaurant and gift shop

Adults US\$8 (around 64 yuan)

Students and minors (between 5 and 17) US\$5 (around 40 yuan)

Children under five go for free
For partial package including ground terrace, snack bars, restaurant and gift shop

Adults US\$5 (around 40 yuan)

Students and minors (between 5 and 17) US\$3 (around 24 yuan)

Children under five go for free

Tel: 0507-276 8325 or 276 8449

Fax: 0507-276 8469

Email: cvm@pancanal.com

Get to CVM

From Panama City, you can either take a public bus or taxi. The buses depart from a terminal known as 'SACA', which is situated downtown.

There are two style buses that service Miraflores, a newer air-conditioned bus and the older school-style bus. The newer bus costs US\$0.50 (about 5 yuan). During the hours of 4am to 7am, and 2pm to 3:30pm, and 10pm these buses drive right to the entrance to the locks.

Taxis charge approximately US\$6-8 (around 48 to 60 yuan) one way, but you can hire a taxi by the hour for about the same amount of time.

By Han Manman
Ruder Finn's Training Program is well known throughout the public relations industry, and entry-level employees are rarely hired without having completed the program. The company hires many of the best graduates of the program to fill Assistant Account Executive positions. The Executive Training Program is for college



graduates who are interested in exploring a career in public relations. Many have little to no prior experience in the field. Executive Trainees work full time, 35 hours per week and attend weekly classes. The program lasts six months. Ruder Finn educates trainees/interns in the fundamental skills of public relations, e.g. writing, media monitoring, media relations, electronic media, special

event planning, new business presentations and more.

"First of all, to be good at PR, the most important thing is to be a pleasant and outgoing person. An applicant who has a background in media, communication or marketing may also do well in the industry. PR is part of the communication industry, and it is key that we share our experience and knowledge to dig out the char-

acteristics of our clients and the media so that we can bridge the two in order to achieve our objectives. Sometimes, the people doing the PR must forget themselves; after all, we are consultants working for our clients."

—Mao Jingbo, Senior Vice President & General Manager, Ruder Finn Public Relations Consulting (Beijing) Co., Ltd.

Ruder Finn: The Art of Spin



Robbie Li graduated from Beijing Broadcasting Institute with a degree in journalism. He was offered a full-time job with RF Beijing after a half-year internship in 2004. On Monday he was promoted to Senior Account Executive.

Before joining Ruder Finn, I did a six-month internship as a journalist and editor for Beijing Radio Station. This gave me a good foundation for getting into the PR industry. PR and the media have many similarities.

I don't know what other people write in the cover letters they send out with their resumes but I never write traditional cover letters. I just use one piece of paper on which I write 'You should choose me because...' and then write the letter in three parts including education

and work experience. When writing about what kind of person I am, I write, 'I am the kind of crazy guy who got drunk with his classmates on the street and shouted when he was a freshman and the kind of person who sings 'You make me happy, you make me sad' when I broke up with my first girlfriend...surprisingly enough, I can't remember the rest of the details. All I know is that the thin cover letter showed that I'm the kind of guy who would fit perfectly into the creative PR world. I think

you need to write an original cover letter like that because creativity is what PR is all about.

My advice to students would be, if you come up against a problem, try to think about what you can gain from it and what you can learn from it. Experience can show you your weaknesses but also build your strengths. I believe life itself is one long communication procedure. From working in PR, I have learned various communication skills, which have made my life more interesting.

Comments from Mao Jingbo: Robbie is an emotional boy, and this is a good characteristic for someone working in PR. We didn't know how good he would be at the very beginning, but we could see that he had great potential when he expressed his willingness to pursue a career in PR. Robbie did an outstanding job during his six-month internship, gaining the trust of his colleagues as well as that of his clients. Robbie is diligent and hardworking; and built up a solid understanding of the automobile industry while working for our client, FAW-Volkswagen.

I was surprised when my girlfriend said she wanted to work in PR in spring 2002. Before that, I knew nothing about PR. As I helped her prepare her application for an internship at another international PR company I began to get interested in this industry myself. I wrote a book-long resume, put it in a green cover, the same color as the Ruder Finn logo, and sent it to the company. Ruder Finn called me the same day to invite me in for an interview.

The interview day was an 'embarrassing' day for me.

Javier Lu joined the Ruder Finn Beijing office in October 2002 after a six-month internship. He is now responsible for the day-to-day consultancy service and activities for Audi. Javier graduated from the University of International Business and Economics with a BA in economics.



Comments from Mao Jingbo:

From the very beginning, Javier demonstrated his preparedness and passion for the PR industry and this impressed me immediately. We could also see that his character was the 'Ruder Finn Style'. Javier impressed all his supervisors with his quick learning skills, clear mind, writing skills and high efficiency. I try to challenge him by giving him tasks higher than his level, and he always surprises me with good results, that's why I always say that he knows how to 'survive' when I drop him into the ocean.

Dressed in a formal suit with a collar and tie and my portfolio under my arm, I walked into the company offices. I immediately became the center of attention with everyone staring at me. They were all wearing smart casual clothes and I was dressed like an entrepreneur. But I liked the friendly but professional environment immediately.

The interviewer was our famous boss who charges clients US\$280 dollar an hour for her time. She gave a very straightforward interview and it only lasted 10 minutes. She said straight away that the company could not promise anyone that they would be

offered a job at the end of their internship. She asked if I still wanted to do the internship and I said of course yes.

Working in PR, I have had a lot of different experiences including listening to a speech by the former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) as well as working until 3 am to finish an Audi event. The internship was not easy for me, but I could see my future in PR, it's a career full of challenge, change and creativity. At the end of my internship I got a formal job offer. Since working here I think my character has changed. In the PR industry your clients are paying to ask you to do things for them.

The ultimate result should be what your client wants to see. The internship was a significant experience for me, I now understand how to provide a good service and protect the rights of our clients.

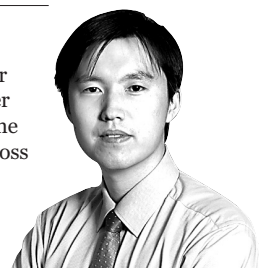
I still vividly remember a big lesson I learnt when we were pitching for a project launched by the South Korean SK group. As SK is the third largest group in Korea and also a global Fortune 500 company, our bosses were passionate about securing the deal. They asked me to help them prepare some information and do some market research at a university campus as the newly launched website was aimed at young people. Our bosses were having a good discussion with the SK Executive in the pitch meeting, but the client suddenly turned and pointed at me and said the project is for young people, so have my friends ever logged onto the website and enjoyed using it. To tell the truth, I hadn't prepared anything to say during the pitch as all the bosses were there and I wasn't interested in IT products and websites. I had to be honest and say I seldom log onto that website. The SK Executive said nothing but later we found out we had not won the project. On our way back to the company, I apologized to our China head. He said that it was never wrong to be honest. But I blamed myself and after that made sure I always knew more about our clients before meeting them.

The first job for a student is very important as it can influence his or her future career development. At Ruder Finn, the interns do the same work as the regular staff does. I remember that my boss emphasized many times at staff meetings that Ruder Finn's interns should not just help with printing and faxing documents. During my six-month internship, I started from some basic research and media monitoring, then very quickly I got opportunities to understand more about what PR is all about by getting involved in many different tasks and projects such as press release development, media relations management, event planning and execution etc.

Upon joining the company, every intern will have a mentor who is an experienced Ruder Finn member of staff with very solid PR skills. The mentor will give orientations to the intern. Thanks to this system and the guidance given by my mentor as well as other team members, I never felt lost during my internship. In addition, my boss also regularly came to my desk to check up on me, to make sure I was doing the work I had been assigned and to ensure that people were helping and guiding me. All these make me feel very engaged in the company and in the work I do.

Months later, my boss asked me if I could stay after the internship. I had been offered a job at Price WaterHouse Coopers, but I decided to stay at Ruder Finn to be a PR consultant because I enjoyed working in an office where everyone respected me and recognized my ability.

Time flies. I have worked here nearly four years now and I find myself still learning and growing. From IT to finance, from energy to auto, here I've gained exciting experience by working with different team members in different industries and areas. But no matter what I do, I always think about how I can learn from the experience and how I can continue to grow.



Paul Yang graduated from the University of International Business and Economics with a major in international marketing. He joined Ruder Finn in 2003 after a six-month internship.

Comments from Mao Jingbo: Paul is very bright and has a PR-relevant major. Although he is quite quiet, I'm continually impressed by his calmness, confidence and natural PR sense. Paul joined Ruder Finn after demonstrating his professional attitude and ability; his strong skills in areas such as marketing research, proposal generation, and press release writing also greatly impressed the team and me during his internship.

Follow Beijing Today

This is the time of year when graduates are out and about job hunting. Below is a resume cover letter written by one of these graduates and comments from a native-English speaker on how it could be improved. If you have any stories about graduation or queries about job-hunting, send an email to shirey_chen@ynet.com.

How to write a cover letter



A good cover letter can give graduates that all important break into the job market.



Yang Fang enjoys her last year of college life at Renmin University.

Dear Sir/Madam:

My interest in your prestigious company has prompted me to forward my resume. With my aptitudes indicated as following and a keen desire to join in your team, I am applying for the job in this field.

As indicated in my resume, I worked as an intern in Honeywell, Nestll and New House International Education Consulting Company, where I gained interpersonal skills and strong ability to solve daily problems, and to work in highly intensive environment. I learned to write business strategy plans and ended as a good business planner in New House. To be exact, I formed my own team to organize a summer camp aiming to enhance the members' job-hunting abilities, which successfully helped New

House to profit during off-season. The internship in Nestll was data processing and documentation support for two departments. My efficiency and carefulness impressed my bosses in both departments. Working at Honeywell as a sales coordinator, I really got to understand that team spirit and communication skills are vital to accomplish a job. My intern experiences and social activities on campus taught me how to work, learn, lead, coordinate and communicate, which prepared me well for future jobs.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I am expecting for further communication with you. I do hope my ability and experience made me a suitable candidate.

Sincerely,
Yang Fang (Helen)

make a favorable impression.

If possible, a cover letter should be addressed to the specific person, rather than Sir/Madam, who has the power to hire you in order to attract their attention. If no name can be found on the advertisement a little research can usually turn up the head of Human Resources.

The first thing I noticed about your letter is that there is no indication of what company you are applying to work at other than it is 'prestigious.' A cover letter should be targeted to a specific organization and customized for the exact job position.

Starting the second paragraph is a typical run-on sentence. When editing your cover letter it is necessary to make sure you end up with a clear and concise message. Any extraneous information should be eliminated and it should be written in a simple, easy to follow format.

The overall format of your cover letter is solid with three distinct paragraphs. The first should always make a logical connection between you, the employer and the position. The second makes concrete connections between your skills and goals to the position and organization. The final paragraph

invites a response, suggests the next step and provides a call to action.

The most important thing to remember about a cover letter is that it sells you to the company. You need to do more than just inform them of your abilities but get the company excited about what you can do for them. You must make a case for a perfect fit between the company and yourself to explain to the company why they should hire you not just list reasons they could hire you.

Best Regards,
Ryan Becker

(Ryan Becker is a teacher at New Channel school.)

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Bridge over troubled water



Photo by Wu Dan

By Philip Space

It was built in the Ming Dynasty and looks like an inverted sycee (common form of Chinese currency in ancient times, made from solid silver) hence the name Sycee Bridge. The viewing and admiring of the mountain on the Sycee Bridge is one of the Eight Smaller Scenic Spots of Yanjing.

This sign was spotted next to a Ming Dynasty bridge in Beijing. It is generally well written and easy to understand. But there are a few improvements that could be made. The sentence 'The viewing and admiring of the mountain on the Sycee Bridge is one of the Eight Smaller Scenic Spots of Yanjing' is not very clear. It would probably make more sense if 'viewing and admiring' were dropped and the sentence rewritten as follows; 'The mountain on the Sycee Bridge is one of the eight smaller scenic spots in Yanjing.'

A real inconvenience



Photo by Zhao Qiang

By Philip Space

Repair sorry for your inconvenience

This sign was spotted outside one of Beijing's numerous building sites. It's pretty clear what the sign writers are trying to say but the message is still a grammatical mess. A few simple tweaks could turn it into a sign you would find anywhere in sunny England. A comma should be inserted into the sentence after the word 'repair', 'we apologize' should replace 'sorry' and 'your' should be replaced with 'any'. So the sign should read 'The bridge is under repair, we apologize for any inconvenience.'



Dear Yang Fang:

Writing a cover letter is the first big step in the job application process. Through it, you give the company an introduction to your experiences, skills, personality and professionalism. Your goal is to get the company interested in having a follow-up interview with you and, ultimately, offer you employment. As the first contact between you and your potential employer it is of the utmost importance that you

Friday, September 29

Exhibition Western Photographers in China

The exhibition shows works of Rene Burri, Henri-Cartier Bresson and Marc Riboud.

Where:

Beijing Art Now Gallery, Beijing Workers Stadium, opposite Gate 12, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until October 7

Admission: Free

Tel: 6551 1632

Chen Yu Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, River-ville Square, No 1 District One, Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 10am-10pm, until September 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Cross the Sea under Camouflage

The fourth in the contemporary art exhibition series Thirty-Six Strategies.

Where: Creek Art, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until October 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9217

Movie

You and Me (Wo Men Lia)

In a hutong courtyard in

Beijing, a selfish old landlady and a young student develop a friendship.

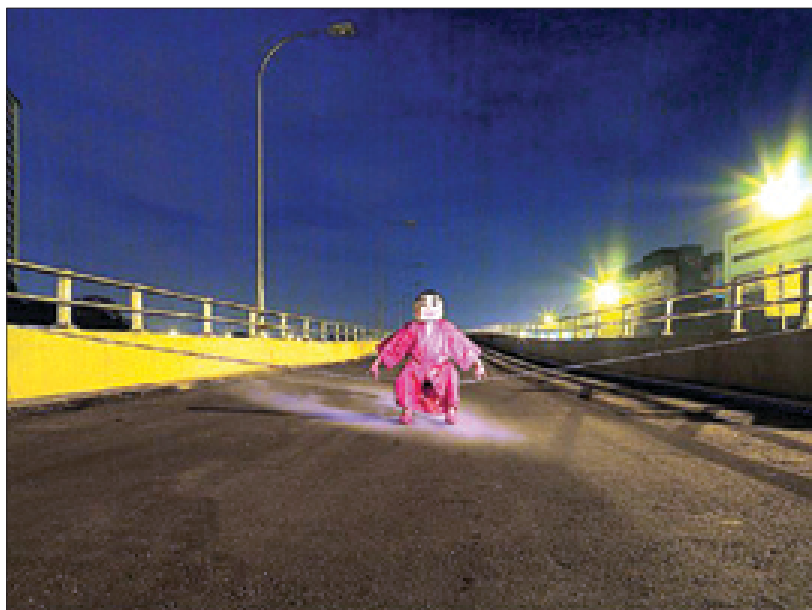
Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liang-maqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When:

8pm, until September 30

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745



Saturday, September 30

Exhibition

The Art of Life – Susanna Hernesniemi Solo Exhibition



Where: Anny Art Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until October 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 7783

The Space of Image – Solo Exhibition by Liu Daming



Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until October 14

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Sheer – Zhang Fan Solo Exhibition

Where: One Moon, Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai, Dongcheng

When: Wed-Sun 11am-6pm, until October 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6427 7748

Movie

French Creation – A selection of six short French films



The animated movies include *A dog's life*, *Pit Parker Contre l'Araignée*, *Taxi de Nuit*, *Hors Jeu*, *Yaourts Mystiques* and *A Donf...*

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Loach is fish too

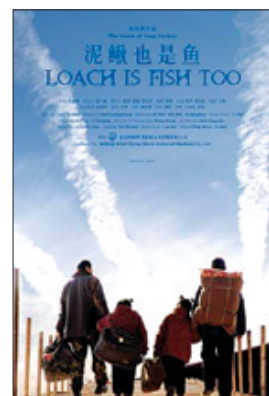
The story of a man and a woman both named Ni Qiu (Loach). They go to Beijing for a better life...

Where: Hart Center of Arts, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6435 3570



Sunday, October 1

Exhibition My Castle – Wang Fei's Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6:30pm, until October 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

Group Exhibition

An exhibition featuring Wang Di, Wang Mingming, Shen Daohong, Hu Yongkai, Du Yingqiang and Shiqi.

Where: Wan Fung Art Gallery, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until October 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320



Beyond Foreordination – Contemporary Photography Exhibition

Where: China Art Seasons, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until November 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 1900

The Art & Life of Contemporary Women – Group Exhibition

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 3rd Floor, 19 Building, China Central Place, No 89, Jian Guo Lu, Chaoyang

When: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, until November 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 6530 7048



Stage in October

Dance

Russian Cossack State Dance Company's debut in Beijing

Who: Russian Cossack State Dance Company

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 1-2

Opera

Così fan tutte, Opera Buffa in Two Acts

Who: Piccolo Teatro di Milano

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 8-9

Nose, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Century Theater

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 13

La Traviata, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Teatro la Fenice

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 29

Music

Grand opening of the 9th Beijing Music Festival

Who: Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Maurizio Pollini Piano Recital

Who: Famous Italian Pianist Maurizio Pollini

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 4

A Night of Russian Music

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 6

Dmitri Shostakovich Song Cycle

Who: Dmitri Shostakovich

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 10

Paul Badura-Skoda Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 15

BBC Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: BBC Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 24-25

(By Qiu Jiaoning)